

RESERVIST

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

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MOBEX 2012

THE RESERVE HOLDS THE LARGEST AND
MOST COMPREHENSIVE MOBILIZATION
EXERCISE OF ITS KIND

Volume LIX ≈ Issue 2 • 2012



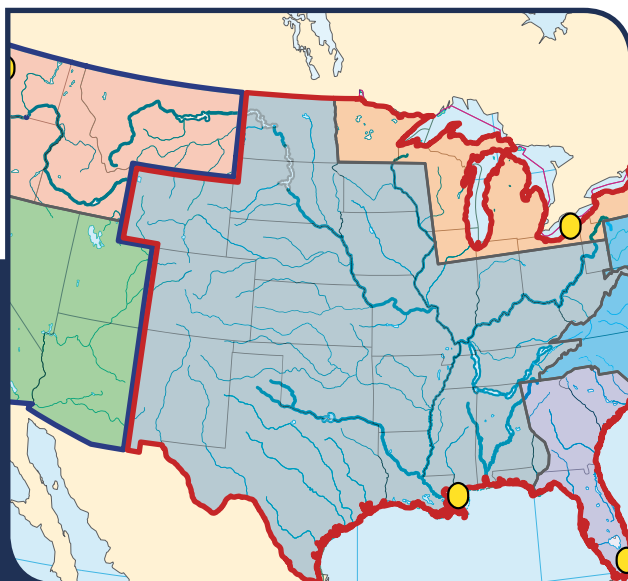
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MOBILIZATION EXERCISE 2012



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MAGAZINE

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FROM THE EDITOR



A number of years ago I attended a retirement ceremony at which the retiree included a comment in her remarks that has stuck with me ever since. As memory serves it went something like this, "I never really planned on hanging around as long as I did, but as it turns out, the longer you stay, the longer you stay." As it turns out I will be staying here in Washington, and with the Coast Guard, a bit longer, having been hired on permanently as this publication's Editor.

As I mentioned in my initial From The Editor column as Interim Editor, a significant part of my professional career outside the Coast Guard Reserve was in the public relations, publishing arena as an entrepreneur and small business owner. It is my plan to utilize those private sector experiences to maintain and, if possible, build on the outstanding reputation the Reservist so rightfully holds. My guiding principle will be to "do no harm."

Fortunately, I have an excellent partner, Chris Rose, the magazine's art director extraordinaire. His creativity is boundless and well recognized both inside and outside the Coast Guard. Going forward it is our goal to continue to seek opportunities to improve editorial content, its presentation and means of delivery. We will strive to maintain an appropriate balance between providing, what might be termed, programmatic or policy information with their real world manifestations; the human face of your individual and collective efforts. Your thoughtful comments and feedback are welcomed and encouraged.

Finally, I am grateful to the Coast Guard for the opportunity to hang around a bit longer. I am equally grateful to be in a position to help tell your stories. Stories like one in this issue written by BM3 Paul Dragin of Port Security Unit 309 about fellow Coast Guardsman, Thinh Truong.

It is the story of Thinh Truong and countless others yet untold that make the staying not seem that long.

Anima est Bonus!
Jeff Smith

MORE CDR HOSKING REMEMBRANCES...

My name is Janet D. Blair, USCGR Retired. I served 20 years at First District Boston with Cmdr. Christina M. Hoskings. I am the Petty Officer (Yeoman) standing behind the commander during inspection at the change of command for Reserve Unit Marine Safety Office Boston. I had the pleasure of serving with Cmdr. Hoskings as she instilled in me pride and service to my country. I visit First District Boston and am proud to have been a part of the Coast Guard team. In fact, I have a grandson who presently is a member of the CG Auxiliary in Boston.

Sincerely,

Janet D. Blair,
USCGR (Ret.)

I was drawn back to my early days at MSO Boston when I saw the picture of Cmdr. Hosking conducting the inspection (Issue 5 - 2011). I agree with the sentiment expressed by Chief Allen but disagree that it is him. The picture is of me and I have a few others that are similar. I fondly remember many of the unit members and have remained friends with several. Memory is a strange and sometimes funny thing, I hope it's not mine that is fading but I don't think so.

Respectfully submitted for your reconsideration,

Pete Milner, Lt. Cmdr.
USCGR (Ret.)

PS: As an aside review the picture with Jeff Smith, I was at Station Chatham with him (sans beard). Also served with Captain Kent Bauer when he was at First District (r) and I was D (rsa) back in 1991.

Note: Sir, great to hear from you. The standard line when visiting a CG unit is that you can't tell the reserve from the active - apparently, there may also be a problem telling the reserve from the reserve. - **JDS**



FORMAT FEEDBACK...

I have just received and have read from cover to cover Issue 1, 2012 of the Reservist magazine. This issue contained the most interesting stories that I have read in the Reservist magazine in a long time. And, a lot of them!

Too bad it has been decided not to publish the hard copy of this magazine in the future. I will miss it a lot as I am sure others will also.

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Gloss.
USCGR (Ret.)

Note: *Sir, in fact, we will continue to publish the magazine in hard copy for the foreseeable future. – JDS.*

I was a bit apprehensive about the Reservist going solely on-line just because there is nothing like a paper copy in your hands. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the ease of the layout, the great zoom in-zoom out feature, and being able to click on a picture in the preface and have it take you to the page that it is associated with is also a great feature!

I just wanted to say great job! Keep up the good work! I look forward to future publications! Semper Paratus!

Respectfully,

ME1 Michael Maust,
USCGR

THANKS, USCGR

My family and I really appreciate you accommodating us at your Yellow Ribbon Program event in Tampa, Florida. We had a wonderful time. Not only was all the information useful, but attending a CG event gave me a greater understanding and higher respect for what you all do, especially units like PSU 307. I am very grateful for everything, especially for making us feel so very welcome as the only Army people in attendance.

Thank you again for everything and I salute each and every one of you for your service.

SSG Viet Nguyen,
US Army Reserve

CG-6535

Great magazine - keep it coming! However, subject picture caption (pages 4 & 5) talks about "tragic loss of our shipmates aboard CG-6535". But nowhere in the issue does it tell us about the loss. Please, tell us about it!

Thanks.
Richard Schubert

Note: *Sir, the Coast Guard 6535 crashed into Mobile Bay, AL, during a training mission on the evening of February 28, 2012. The aircraft crew of Lt. Cmdr. Dale Taylor, Lt. j.g. Thomas Cameron, Chief Petty Officer Fernando Jorge and Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Knight were all lost. If you look at the back cover of Issue 1 – 2012 you can see a reflection in the helmet visor of the Honor Guard which presided at the memorial service held on March 8. – JDS*

USCGR: WE'VE COME A LONG WAY...

Each month I look forward to getting the Reservist magazine. I look back to when I joined the reserve in 1953 and see the many changes and advancements the Reserve program has made. Our training was very limited in the early days and the Regulars didn't trust us with doing their job. Our weekly drills consisted of marching, first aid, and watching old movies. On our two week training, we did jobs like painting, cutting grass, cleanup and very little pertaining to our rate. Having been in the Reserve from 1953 to 1993 I did see some of the changes. Many reservists had civilian jobs that were similar with Coast Guard jobs and they could have been an asset to the Regulars. It took many years before we were accepted as being capable of performing Coast Guard functions.

Now when I look at the Reservist magazine and see how the reserve program has advanced. It makes me proud that I was a Coast Guard reservist and maybe had a small part in the changes. It's great that the Coast Guard is utilizing reservists in their mission. The Reserve has come a long way since the 50s. Unlike in the early days, reservists contribute to the service in a much greater way.

SCPO Donald Scott,
USCGR (Ret.)

SEAL PROGRAM

A while back I remembered that a few Coast Guard personnel were going thru SEAL Training. I have heard nothing more about this program? Is the program still in existence? How many Coast Guard personnel have qualified?

Captain John Pitta,
USCGR (Ret.)

Note: *Sir, in response to your question we received the following update from Lt. Eric Eggen, a Public Affairs Officer assigned to Pacific Area – JDS:*

"In 2008, the Coast Guard signed a memorandum of agreement with U.S. Special Operations Command and the Chief of Naval Operations to enable Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel to train and serve with Navy Special Warfare as part of the SEALs. Coast Guard personnel selected and completing the 18-24 month training to earn the SEAL designation, would serve approximately 5 years as a SEAL. Under the program, the Coast Guard has assigned five people to Naval Special Warfare Command. Four completed SEAL training and were assigned to SEAL Teams. One is still in training. One officer who completed the program and served with a SEAL Team has since returned to the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard continually evaluates the utility and efficiency of its programs and expenditures to make sure they are returning the maximum service for the taxpayer's investment. Following a thorough review, the Commandant has decided to end the Coast Guard SEAL program, as it is no longer needed by the Coast Guard to accomplish its missions or facilitate joint operability with the Navy. The Coast Guard conducts specialized law enforcement and joint operations that require superior levels of proficiency in tactical operations. However, the Coast Guard does not have Special Operations Forces or conduct special operations. The Coast Guard recently issued operational doctrine, Coast Guard Publication 3-0 Operations, which clarifies the service's role supporting special operations as part of joint operations.

The Coast Guard will minimize negative impacts to personnel that are currently in the SEAL program. We will work with U.S. Special Operations Command and Naval Special Warfare Command to ensure the best transition plan for each Coast Guard member, including options to return to the Coast Guard or seek an inter-service transfer to the Navy".

CORRECTION: While the objective of last issue's article by Lt. T. Baker in Financial Readiness/Improving Financial Stewardship (Vol. LIX – Issue 1, 2012, page 30) was well intended, the content of the article was not entirely correct. We would like to correct and clarify this information with a follow up article about the use of the centrally billed account (CBA) and the individual billed account/government travel credit card. Refer to the corrected article in this issue on Page 36.

Carlene Curry,
GTCC Program Coordinator
CG-PSC-BOPS-r





U.S. Coast Guard Station Duluth personnel escort members of the local media on an air boat tour of the flooded areas of Fond du Lac, Saturday, June 23, 2012. The Coast Guard's air boats can access heavily flooded areas to perform search and rescue missions with the special purpose craft because the boats can enter shallow water.

Photo by PA1 Matthew Schofield

The View



Rear Admiral
Steven E. Day

Acting Director
of the
Coast Guard Reserve

"In rising through the ranks from E-1 to O-8, I always appreciated the value of straightforward communications. In that vein, it is my intent to let you know the realities we face and our plans to successfully navigate them."

Greetings, Shipmates! First, let me state how honored and humbled I am that Admiral Papp has entrusted me with the program management of the Coast Guard Reserve. This assignment is an awesome opportunity and one I eagerly embrace.

While the Reserve Training (RT) appropriation represents less than 1.5% of the total Coast Guard budget, the last decade has shown that our approximately 8,100 Selected Reservists (SELRES) represent a significant portion of the Service's contingency response capacity. I have witnessed first-hand the enormous contribution each and every one of you has made to our service and our country. It is your dedication and devotion to duty which will serve as my compass rose during my tenure. In rising through the ranks from E-1 to O-8, I always appreciated the value of straightforward communications. In that vein, it is my intent to let you know the realities we face and our plans to successfully navigate them.

As the person charged with supporting the recruitment, training and maintenance of our Reserve force, my priorities are simple and direct. First, manage the budget in support of these three key functions; and, second, facilitate identification of workforce requirements and competencies. Bottom line, efficient and effective resource management beginning at every level --from Headquarters to the field -- is critical to our ability to successfully mobilize well trained and technically proficient reservists when the next Title 14 or Title 10 event comes our way.

Accordingly, I have directed Captain Kent Bauer, Chief of Reserve Affairs (CG-131) and his staff to pursue the following course for prioritization of the RT appropriation: maintain an onboard strength of 8,100 SELRES; fund 48 Inactive Duty for Training (IDT) drills and 12 days annual training; fund IDT berthing; and, maintain the current Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS). In today's constrained budget environment we must take a hard look at how RT dollars are being allocated with respect to direct impact on workforce readiness. To the greatest extent possible, our resource decisions will be based on meeting individual program manager's requirements and associated competencies. In the absence of specifically defined requirements, RT resources will be prioritized to meet individual enlisted rating and officer specialty competencies.

In the area of requirements and competencies, we have made good progress through Captain John Ancellotti's efforts with the Concept of Reserve Employment (CORE). If you have not yet read it, I strongly encourage you to review his CORE update, which appeared in the last issue of this magazine (Issue 1 – 2012, page 28).

Additionally, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force Mark Allen is leading a joint CG-731/CG-131 Boat Forces Reserve Component Working Group (BF-RC WG), which is working collaboratively with both the Atlantic and Pacific Areas to establish a standard set of metrics for capturing the training effectiveness and operational readiness of Reserve personnel assigned to Boat Forces Personnel Allowance List (PAL) positions. The WG is also looking at potential changes to current competencies assigned to the Reserve filled PAL billets to better align them with the guidance set out in the CORE Boat Forces ALCOAST.

I am also pleased to point to significant progress with respect to the nearly 1,000 Reserve personnel who train and work within the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS) organization. The Director of Operational Logistics (DOL-31) RFRS Division, under the leadership of Commander Andy Sheffield, has made the transition from Alameda, California to its permanent spaces in Norfolk, Virginia. DOL-31 has acquired numerous Reserve billets including a Reserve Gold Badge Command Master Chief and a Senior Reserve Officer. The staff has participated in two mobilization exercises, one in Portsmouth, Virginia and one in the Port of Los Angeles Long Beach, gaining valuable insights on how to best prepare reservists for mobilization and utilization in support of DCMS mission sets. For more detail I encourage you to read Commander Sheffield's in-depth article in this issue of the RESERVIST. In closing, I ask for your continued commitment to our Service and our Country. I would submit that your individual and collective efforts have never been more important to the ongoing safety and security of our Nation.

I am honored to call you, Shipmates.

On Deck

Uniform Matters

In my travels to various units, I have heard ongoing discussions about our uniform policy. I have been assigned to different types of units during more than 30 years of service as a reservist. My work has included boarding ships, pollution response, boat crew work, joint and port security operations. Throughout my tenure, I have worn several different types of Coast Guard uniforms. Thinking back, those have included coveralls, the old style working blues, Tropical Blue Long, Service Dress Blues, Operational Dress Uniforms (Desert and Woodland), and the Dinner Dress uniform. I have also seen unit variations on these uniforms. Too many variations sometimes cause us to drift off course, and to disregard guidelines.

Admiral Papp has made Steady the Service, one of his guiding principles. That includes a uniform policy, which set out to better define our uniforms and how they are worn.

In addition to being a reservist, I worked in law enforcement for more than 27 years. Research repeatedly shows that law enforcement personnel encountered fewer issues when wearing uniforms in a professional manner. That relates directly to Honor Our Profession, another one of Admiral Papp's guiding principles. You honor our profession by wearing the United States Coast Guard uniform properly, proudly, and professionally. Ours is a military and maritime service and our uniforms help identify us as such.

We have a long and proud tradition of uniforms, dating back to our forbearers in the Revenue Cutter Marine. When you wear your uniform with distinction, you honor that legacy.

By their very name, military uniforms allow for an identifiable and easily distinguished standard of dress. Recent changes to the Coast Guard's uniform policy narrowed variations, to improve standardization. It's part of an ongoing and concerted effort to instill pride and improve professionalism throughout our ranks. A predecessor of mine once wrote an article for the Reservist magazine entitled, Am I My Brother's Keeper? That's a title applicable to uniform standardization.

My philosophy is that we should be our brother's keeper, especially where we tackle issues of how we present ourselves as a uniformed, military service. Each of us should also ensure all shipmates are honoring their profession by properly wearing their uniform in accordance with policy. I especially believe Chiefs should seize a leadership role in ensuring uniform standards are properly and consistently followed, as it links to military bearing and professionalism.

I encourage you to learn the regulations, teach them to your shipmates, and wear your uniform proudly. Remember, recent changes will help Steady Our Service and Honor our Profession. Each time you wear the Coast Guard uniform, I hope you will recall those guiding principles.

Semper Paratus



Master Chief
John Lachman

Eighth District
Reserve Command
Master Chief

"We have a long and proud tradition of uniforms, dating back to our forbearers in the Revenue Cutter Marine. When you wear your uniform with distinction, you honor that legacy."



Fleet Watch

2012 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

How does a paralegal at the U.S. Department of Justice end up in Iraq assigned to a U.S. Army transportation battalion? She volunteers to deploy as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Chief Petty Officer Jessica Snyder, a reservist from Sector New York, was deployed for eight months with the Coast Guard's Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment, commonly referred to as RAID. This assignment, coupled with a voluntary deployment for the Deepwater Horizon spill and a strong commitment to community service, earned Snyder the honor of being selected as the 2012 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

While overseas, her team assisted redeploying Army units with the shipping process as they sent cargo in and out of combat zones. Snyder and her team were attached to Army transportation battalions and worked with the troops, assisting in the drawdown of forces as well as the redeployment of troops in Afghanistan.

Serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, Snyder was one of the unit's container inspection subject matter experts and instructed personnel on international transportation procedures and requirements for their containers, equipment and any hazardous material items.

Snyder visited 12 forward-operating bases to inspect and seal containers, inspect the cargo and perform structural inspections on containers to determine their serviceability. Altogether, her efforts played a vital role in the safe movement of more than 10,000 containers out of Iraq from September to December 2011.

Snyder completed a total of 75 missions. On one particular mission, she led the RAID's involvement for the Army explosive ammunition transfer at the Kuwait Naval Base, reviewing and certifying 55 explosives shipping papers and managing the oversight of 450 containers lifted, carrying a combined 1,000 pounds net explosive weight.

Her skills were not just limited to performing the mission, however. Snyder sought extra responsibilities and supported her fellow service members in countless ways.

At Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, Snyder volunteered to staff the USO office on days off and after the workday. In a two-month period she logged more than 50 volunteer hours, including organizing and staffing a "Christmas in July" celebration. The event experienced setbacks due to several mortar attacks and indirect fire, but she was determined to boost morale and the event finally came to fruition.



Meritoriously advanced Chief Petty Officer Jessica Snyder, the 2012 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, gives remarks at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.
Photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley

Beyond her USO volunteerism, Snyder also organized care packages delivered to the Kandahar Wounded Warrior program. Taking the time to personally sit down with wounded soldiers, she coordinated gift packages by organizing specific care packages for each of them. Involving her community back home, she reached out to her co-workers at the U.S. Department of Justice, her family and friends and a New Jersey Girl Scout troop.

After returning home from her eight-month deployment, you'd think Snyder would need a rest. But instead she volunteered for a two-month deployment to assist with the Deepwater Horizon cleanup. Serving as a team leader, her responsibilities included supervising contractor monitoring and emergency response teams. Throughout the response she was responsible for more than 500 miles of shoreline with 300,000 residents.

The Coast Guard depends on the Reserve force to be always ready. In Snyder, the Coast Guard has found someone who is always ready, and more, as she volunteered for two demanding deployments over a 10-month period.

Bravo Zulu to Chief Petty Officer Snyder on being selected as Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year and congratulations on your new anchors!

Reprinted from the
Coast Guard Compass: Official Blog of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Director of Operational Logistics

Reserve Force Readiness Division (DOL-31)

My last article in the RESERVIST (Issue 4, 2011) provided a basic overview of Director of Operational Logistics (DOL-31) -- its planned staffing footprint and overall responsibilities as the full time Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS) staff exclusively dedicated to providing support to Selected Reserves (SELRES) assigned within the Deputy Commandant Mission Support (DCMS) organization.

This equates to approximately 1,000 SELRES being sprinkled throughout the Coast Guard; from the Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans, and all points in between. Although the lion's share of DCMS SELRES reside within the thirteen Phase-I Bases, as part of the DOL, our small, yet highly capable part-time workforce continues to also stand the watch at Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-1 (Human Resources), CG-4 (Engineering and Logistics), CG-6 (C4IT), and CG-9 (Acquisitions)), and within the Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) organization.

In just a year, DOL-31 made notable progress in supporting DCMS Reserve forces, while simultaneously making minor course corrections due to synergies realized from District (dxr) and Area-51 RFRS staffs.

First, a few accomplishments:

- Aided in the establishment of thirteen Phase-I Bases
- Spearheaded the development of the Concept of Reserve Employment (CORE) Enlisted ALCOAST - Mission Support (DCMS); release anticipated late summer/early fall 2012 timeframe
- Developed informative DOL-31 web & CG Portal pages
- Managed DCMS ITP initiative (over 150 ATU-OPFACs)
- Acquired numerous DCMS SELRES billets, including a DOL Reserve CMC (Gold Badge) position, a DOL Senior Reserve Officer (SRO) position, and critical DOL-4 Logistics Support Element (LSE) Reserve positions

Reserve Command Master Chief Departs DOG



Master Chief Petty Officer Darrell Odom, Deployable Operations Group Reserve forces command master chief, is saluted by an honor detail as he departs his retirement ceremony. Odom retired after 31 years of military service.

Photo by PA2 Michael Anderson.

ARLINGTON, VA – Master Chief Darrell Odom, the Deployable Operations Group (DOG) Reserve forces command master chief was honored at a retirement ceremony marking 31 years of service on May 17, 2012 at the DOG headquarters. Before a large gathering of family members, friends, guests and military personnel in attendance keynote speaker, former DOG commander Rear Adm. Tom Atkin (Ret.) spoke about the passion and professionalism Master Chief Odom brought to his duties as the first and only DOG Reserve forces command master chief.

"Master Chief Odom is the consummate professional who quietly goes about his job," noted Atkin. "He was here from the beginning (creation of the DOG) providing a steadying hand and insightful input. I am personally indebted to him for his sage counsel and his friendship."

- Shifted RFRS SK3 and CDR position from Alameda, CA to Norfolk, VA
- Acquired an active duty DOL-31 RFRS YNCS position
- Conducted site visits to nine Phase-I Bases
- Participated with Bases Portsmouth & LA/LB in Reserve MOBEXs.

With DOL-31's expansive geographical area of responsibility, coupled with an increasing austere financial environment has only heightened the need for efficiency of effort. To this end, District (dxr) RFRS staffs will continue to provide/coordinate the following services for all DCMS SELRES:

- Generate/process Direct Access orders
- Manage AFC-90 funds
- Reserve IDT berthing

DOL-31 assumed responsibility and programmatic oversight for all DCMS SELRES, with an initial full-time RFRS staff consisting of one commander, one lieutenant, and one third class storekeeper position. As noted in the above accomplishments, the DOL-31 RFRS footprint has now increased

to four positions with the addition of a YNCS billet. It is anticipated that DOL-31 will round out its staff – and reach final operating capability - with a fifth RFRS position sometime in the near future.

You can learn more about the DCMS organization, including more details about DOL-31, by visiting the DCMS and DOL web and CG Portal pages. Additional information is also highlighted in the Service Lines Magazine, located at: <http://www.uscg.mil/servicelines/>.

This DOL-31 update or "fix" was inspired by a very short article I came across in a 1954 (VOL. 1 No. 10) Coast Guard Reservist Magazine; in short: "Let other units learn what your unit is doing, for exchanging of ideas is a practical method of keeping the Coast Guard Reserve program strong and efficient."

Appears "communications" was just as important then as it is today – funny how some things never change.

**By Cmdr. Andy Sheffield,
Chief, Reserve Force Readiness Division,
CG DOL-31**

Coast Guard Senior Reserve Leaders Get Up-Close Look At Hero to Hired Mobile Jobs Store

During a recent visit to Fort Dix, New Jersey Rear Admiral Steven Day, Acting Director of Reserve and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force (MCPOCGRF) Mark Allen stopped by the on-base New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Office to get a first-hand look at the Hero to Hired (H2H) Mobile Jobs Store. The H2H Program, which operates under the DoD's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP), is designed to help Reserve and Guard personnel and their spouses find careers utilizing a combination of innovative resources, which have the ability to quickly search job opportunities in a particular zip code matching jobs to military occupational specialties. "In less than ten minutes, I located eight high-quality job opportunities in my hometown based on my military specialty," raved Rear Admiral Day.

The H2H Mobile Jobs Store brings these resources right to the member. This one-of-a-kind travelling self-contained unit sits on a Chevrolet 7500 chassis. It expands into a jobs store complete with a high definition projection screen for informational briefings and five onboard kiosks where job seekers can search a nation-wide data base filled with thousands of jobs offered by employers who have registered with the Hero to Hired Program. "I encourage reservists everywhere to take advantage of H2H and visit the Mobile Jobs Store when it is in their area," recommends Master Chief Allen.

For more information visit the H2H website at www.h2h.jobs.

By Jeff Smith



Rear Admiral Day and MCPOCGRF Allen take time for a group photograph during their tour of the Hero to Hired Mobile Jobs Store and the ESGR New Jersey office at Ft. Dix.

San Diego MSST Renovates Winward Lighthouse, GTMO

Members of Maritime Safety and Security Team San Diego on deployment in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo provided "off-duty" assistance to help with the renovation of the base's historic Winward Lighthouse.

*Submitted by
Army Sgt. Landis Andrews,
JTF-GTMO-PAO*

Chief Damage Controlman Matthew Caswell, San Diego Maritime Safety and Security Team's Maintenance Division Leading Chief Petty Officer, scrapes paint off of Naval Station Guantanamo's Winward Lighthouse before preparing the lighthouse for primer.



Director of Reserve and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Reserve observe pre-mobilization training

Rear Admiral Steven Day, Acting Director of the Coast Guard Reserve and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Reserve Force travelled to Fort Dix, New Jersey recently to observe members of Port Security Unit (PSU) 309 as they went through the final stages of pre-deployment training.

During the month long training, PSU 309 personnel gained knowledge and practical experience in land navigation, counter improvised explosive device response and both mounted and dismounted patrol operations. "Master Chief Allen and I were quite impressed with the intensity and realism of the training we observed during our visit," noted Rear Admiral Day. "The simulated convoy and mounted patrols training provided by the Army was outstanding."

The Admiral and Master Chief were also able to spend some one-on-one time with the unit including an informal pizza party hosted by the unit and formal All-Hands. Both help recognize and award the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to thirty members of the unit's Engineering Department. They also participated in the advancement ceremony for four of the PSU's enlisted personnel. "It is always great to get out to the field and see the troops," noted Master Chief Allen. "It is doubly enjoyable when you get to recognize the great things our people are doing."

By Jeff Smith



Master Chief Mark Allen thanks Sergeant John Horne, an Army Reserve instructor at Ft. Dix. Looking on are (r-l): Rear Admiral Steve Day; Cmdr. Jerry Nauert, PSU 309 commanding officer; Cmdr. Tim Decker, PSU 309 executive officer; and, Master Chief Dan West, PSU 309 command master chief.

Skype Technology, a great way for Coast Guard families to stay close to loved ones during deployments

On Saturday March 24, the Coast Guard Yellow Ribbon Program (CGYRP) hosted another successful event for the spouses, family members and special guests of Port Security Unit (PSU) 305 based at Fort Eustis, VA, and currently deployed overseas to the US Central Command area of responsibility.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Portsmouth, VA this "during deployment" event was somewhat unique as it was the first time the CGYRP used Skype Technology to facilitate a live video and voice connection between its deployed Coast Guard members in Kuwait and all of the families and friends on hand back in Portsmouth.

Cmdr. Karl Leonard, CGYRP Program Manager, kicked-off the day's agenda by informing the audience that we have a surprise for them. Cmdr. Leonard then stepped to his computer and quickly enabled the connection with a heartfelt "Good Morning" to Cmdr. Michael Ferullo, PSU 305 Commanding Officer. Cmdr. Ferullo was gathered with the members of his unit, one-by-one they each stepped up to the camera and said, "good morning" and brief hello to their spouses and a shout out to the audience. The moment was truly joyous and emotional as witnessed by the simultaneous display of smiles and tears.

"When my husband was attached to an active duty station, I wasn't close with any other wives and always felt out of the loop," said Sarah Pope, wife of BM1 Steven Pope, PSU 305. "I quickly learned the importance of those relationships once we joined the PSU. I felt there was no one going through the same experiences. Through the pre-deployment YRP event, I found that support system that I had always wanted."



Cmdr. Karl Leonard, CG Yellow Ribbon Program Manager, initiates Skype, connecting families with deployed members.

Although many military families now use Skype on a regular basis to stay in touch, this was a first for the CGYRP. The feedback was very positive and CGYRP remains committed to seeking out and leveraging new technologies to enhance the quality of the program for the CG members and families we support.

*Submitted by Lt. Nick Lisle,
Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator (CG-131 YRP)*



Coast Guard and Navy Units Prepare for Joint Deployment

On a gray overcast San Diego day in early May, four boats, two Coast Guard and two Navy, patrol near a joint forward operating base. Aboard the vessels, Coast Guardsmen and Sailors clad in camouflaged uniforms grip their weapons, watching nearby vessel traffic as they enforce their security zone.

An approaching Jet Ski and motorboat appear on the horizon. They break from the normal civilian traffic and charge toward the defensive position. The transportable port security boats spring into action, engines roaring as they maneuver to protect the base.

The unidentified and now hostile vessels continue to close when they begin to fire their weapons. The Coast Guard and Navy boats dodge and weave in response as they simultaneously return fire while protecting the base.

This was just one scenario the Port Clinton, Ohio based Port Security Unit (PSU) 309 completed with Navy Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 3 during exercises

at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. They are both preparing to deploy to the U.S. Central Command area of operations later this year.

"This six-week evolution integrated PSU 309 and MSRON 3," said Cmdr. Gerald A. Nauert, PSU 309's commanding officer. "The benefit of conducting joint operations is it prepares us to work together in theater. It's an opportunity to train to a level of familiarity that will allow us to safely and successfully accomplish assigned tasking."

PSUs provide security and protect personnel and facilities from terrorism, sabotage, espionage, subversion, and attack. During the exercise, they conducted point defense, harbor security and high value asset escort missions with MSRON 3.

PSU boat crews conducted 150 mission sorties, accumulated more than 3,500 underway patrol hours and expended more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition during the exercise to prepare for the upcoming deployment.



With operations and tactics similar to one another, it was an effortless transition for both crews to assimilate.

"It's a similar culture," said Lt. Cmdr. Karl Hansen, PSU 309's operations officer. "We're both seagoing services. We share the same mission, so it's a perfect fit."

PSU 309 and MSRON 3 developed a joint chain of command and concept of operations. This included developing a communications hub staffed by Coast Guard and Navy personnel, and a joint planning cell not only developed plans for the current mission, but for future operations as well.

Not missing a chance to build a stronger relationships and mission effectiveness, the two units continue to explore ways to better conduct joint operations. "We practice similar tactics," Hansen said. "Our boats have a similar armament of a .50 caliber machine gun and two M240 machine guns. We also cross-deck and become qualified to operate the Navy's Sea Ark patrol boats while deployed in theater. We are constantly learning from each other."

PSU 309 can trace its history back to mid-80s and early 90s when PSUs were "notional" units, meaning they would remain in a training phase mainly manned by reservists until they are activated to a deployed area as a Rapid Deployment Force.

With the commissioning of PSU 309, in 1995, it transitioned from a notional unit to a self-sustaining Coast Guard unit, ready to deploy anywhere around the world within 96 hours and begin operations within 24 hours. The unit has a proud operational heritage, including missions in support of multiple operations including Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle and Uphold Democracy. "Our primary mission is to provide security to sensitive ports and vessels," notes Cmdr. Nauert. "But our training also enables us to respond as circumstances dictate."

The unit's mission flexibility was on display during the training exercise when PSU boat crews also assisted four mariners on San Diego Bay. First, an underway PSU 309 boat crew observed a distress signal from three passengers aboard a nearby vessel. Their powerless vessel was caught in the current and was being pushed toward the shore. The Coast Guard crew pulled alongside to provide assistance. After the vessel's engine would not restart, they safely towed the civilian crew and their vessel to its homeport.

Later that afternoon, another PSU 309 boat crew was underway when Sector San Diego requested they assist a kayaker, who had washed onto rocks near the mouth of the San Diego Bay. The crew made contact with the elderly male, brought him aboard and provided first aid before transferring him to a San Diego Harbor Police vessel to receive further emergency medical care.

"These rescues are a small an example of the multi-mission capabilities of the Port Security Units," said Nauert. "It's a perfect example of our members living up to our unit motto, *Facta Non Verba* – Deeds Not Words."

Story and Photos by PA2 Michael Anderson

ABOVE – Port Security Unit 309 and Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 3 boat crews conduct high value asset escort training during a pre-deployment exercise at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., May 2.

RIGHT – Port Security Unit 309 operations specialist, maintains communication with joint Coast Guard and Navy boat crews during a pre-deployment exercise at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. May 3. During the exercise, PSU 309 conducted joint point defense, harbor security and escort missions with Navy Maritime Security Squadron 3.



Around the Reserve

Baker to Vegas Relay 2012

Traveling through the barren desert from Baker, Calif. to Vegas, Nev. is not where one would expect to find the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). However, every year over a weekend from late March to early April, a devoted team of Coast Guard members supported by their family and countless volunteers is seen for miles during the internationally renowned event, known as the Baker to Vegas (B2V) Relay. According to their official website, this race was the brainchild of Los Angeles Police Officers Chuck Foote and Larry Moore whose goals of camaraderie, physical fitness and teamwork were aimed to help law enforcement officers better perform their duties. They began with only nineteen teams in 1985. Over time that number has grown to 270 teams from around the world including Canada, Germany and the U.S. The culminating award ceremony is held at the Las Vegas Hotel Convention Center eight hours after the last team finishes the race. The camaraderie of the committed teams is evident here as 145 law enforcement dignitaries are introduced to the throng of 6000 runners and support personnel celebrating their personal and team victories.

The USCG stood out among the crowd this year for their highest-ranking race to date, awarding them the coveted B2V jumbo-sized mug. It was a well-deserved feat for the hard working co-captains, BM3 Michael Lesley and CWO Josue Mendez. Although the race occurs over a matter of days, assembling a team of committed runners and volunteers takes months of preparation including behind the scenes coordination. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all Coast Guard



Co-captains BM3 Michael Lesley and CWO Josue Mendez show off their B2V jumbo-sized mug, for their highest-ranking race to date, awarding them the coveted award.

service members who lent a hand to their success.

A special thanks to the 11th District Commander Rear Admiral Joseph Castillo for granting permissive orders for over forty Coast Guard members who participated in this event.

Preparations for the 2013 event have already begun! Anyone interested in participating should contact CWO Mendez or BM3 Lesley as soon as possible.

Story and Photo by Lizz Mendez

Sector Mobile pursues readiness excellence



Sector Mobile, nominated by District 8 and Atlantic Area for the Bud Sparks Award for its achievements in both unit readiness and mobilization capacity, continues to pursue ways to enhance local training. Recently reserve boarding teams practiced mock boardings on board the CGC STINGRAY. In addition, many sector members participated in a Boat Crew College hosted by Station Destin in May. And, a Facilities Inspector College will be held in Mobile to improve the training and readiness of over 200 reserves assigned as well as guest students from other commands.

*By Cmdr. Martha LaGuardia,
Senior Reserve Officer.*

Reserve All Hands Held at Coast Guard HQ



On Saturday, April 14th, a Reserve All Hands was held at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. More than 50 people attended the day long sessions which included presentations from Rear Admiral Kurt Hinrichs, Captain Robert Carmack, Captain Michael Megan, Captain John Ancellotti, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force Mark Allen, and Command Master Chief Kevin Isherwood. They shared their experiences and interesting perspectives on the future of the Coast Guard Reserve Program.

Reserve Force Readiness System staffer honored

Mrs. Linda Robinson, who serves as the supervisor for Sector Upper Mississippi River's (SUMR) Reserve Force Readiness (RFR) staff, is the 2012 George R. Putnam Inspirational Leadership Award winner. The award is named for George R. Putnam, the first commissioner of the U.S. Lighthouse Service (U.S.L.S.). He led the U.S.L.S. through 25 years of modernization and expansion from 1910-1935. He exemplified inspirational leadership, and his accomplishments during civilian service have stood the test of time. He retired from the Lighthouse service in 1935 after 45 years of continuous years as a civil servant.



Born in Fort Carson, Colorado, Mrs. Robinson graduated from Beaumont High School and Central Missouri University. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Bachelor of Administration in Human Resources Management. She has 27 years of civil service, starting as a computer specialist transitioning to her current position as a program management analyst. She is married to Keith Robinson, a Coast Guard retiree.

Congratulations and Bravo Zulu on this well deserved honor!

Sea Partners: Helping kids... help their environment



Michael Bennett, an auxiliarist from Sector Delaware Bay, takes questions from students during a recent Sea Partners presentation. The students learned about the effects of pollution and how they can help the environment by following some simple steps including; carrying their milk from the grocery store instead of using a plastic bag, picking up litter wherever they see it, using a lunch box instead of a plastic bag, and, of course, recycling whenever possible. Helping Mr. Bennett with the presentation was his wife, Debra, and Lt. Victoria Taylor from Sector Delaware Bay Reserve Force Readiness staff.

CG Reserve on display at the Pentagon

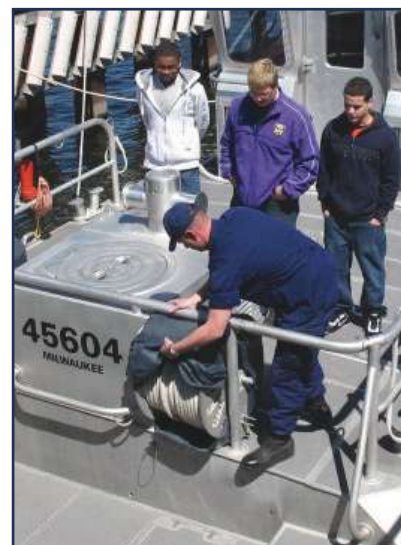


Acting Director of the Coast Guard Reserve Rear Adm. Steve Day along with Master Chief Mark Allen, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force, and Senior Chief Yeomen Michael Jarbeck presented Mr. David L. McGinnis, (2nd from left) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, with photographs of Coast Guard Reserve personnel in action, May 24. The photos will be part of a display highlighting each Reserve Component in the Office of Reserve Affairs office suite at the Pentagon.

Students get first-hand look at D9 Coasties

Coast Guard Reserve Retired SKCM Mary Fowlkes, a 35 year secondary education teacher, took some of her students from Riverside University High School, Milwaukee to Sector Lake Michigan and Station Milwaukee recently so they could get an up close and personal look at Coast Guard missions.

The students, Jayln Fann, Silas Gottinger and Efrén Ortiz, also visited several departments including the educational services officer, medical, engineering and response. Efrén has already been accepted to the CG and will be reporting to boot camp in July. Silas, a junior, is excited about joining the CG upon graduation. A member of the school's swim team, his dream is to become a rescue swimmer. Jalyne, a sophomore, is a member of the Naval Sea Cadets. His goal is to attend the CG Academy.



Fann (left), Gottinger (center) and Ortiz are shown here getting a tour of the Stations' 45 foot Response Boat Medium by MK3 Franklin.

Photo by Mary C. Fowlkes

Around the Reserve (cont.)

MCPO-CGRF and Naval Sea Cadets honor veterans in DC



MCPO-CGRF Allen meets with Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) members following their participation in the Fleet Reserve Association Memorial Day ceremony at the Navy Memorial, Washington, DC on May 28. Sea Cadets represented the Henry E. Mooberry Division, HMCM William R. Charette Battalion, and Matthew Fontain Maury Division. Sea Cadets participate in this event annually to honor fallen and living veterans.

CWOs complete professional development training



Reservists ENG2 Jeff Bernashe and ENG2 Greg Kibby recently completed Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development (CWOPD) at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Picture from left to right are BOSN4 Troy Riedel (Instructor), ENG2 Jeff Bernashe, ENG2 Greg Kibby, INF3 Scott Epperson (Instructor).

B-r-r-r-raving the cold



Even on a June drill weekend the weather of Humboldt Bay, California yields 55 degree water and 60 degree air temperatures. That doesn't stop the Reserve crew of Station Humboldt Bay from enjoying their annual survival swim. Pictured from left to right are SN Ryan Aguilar, MK3 Grant Bechler, BM3 Alex Merkle, MSTC Delora Hamilton, MK3 Jake Wuoltee, BM3 Jeremy Korn and SN Joel Walden. Photo by BM1 Trevor Denham.

Container Inspection Course



MSTCS Gary Dennis, a reservist from Marine Safety Detachment Fort Smith, AR attending CITAT's 2 week National Container Inspection Program's Container Inspection Course. He (second from left) is pictured here with class instructors, from left, MST1 Scott Morton, MSTCS Don Clayton and MST1 Scott King.

Bringing some muscle to bear



MK2 Johnny Johnson, of Port Security Unit 312, was recently selected as the "Coast Guard's - Male First Place Winner" for Bodybuilding.com's Military Challenge.

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MOBEX 2012



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
BY PAI JOHN D. MILLER,
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

The terrorist threat was hypothetical, the oil spill imagined, and the espionage simulated, but a March 2012 exercise included these scenarios to practice another all-too-real situation challenging the Coast Guard Reserve: mobilizing the appropriate personnel to respond to such contingencies.

Evaluating reservists' operational skills is important, but recent large-scale mobilizations such as Deepwater Horizon underscored how difficult it can be to first identify and deploy certified responders for a sustained period of time. Thus the Reserve Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) 2012 was designed to assess the accuracy and adequacy of plans and procedures for reserve augmentation in case of a major incident.

For instance, even before the 68 reservists that traveled to Portsmouth, Va., on March 18 to participate in the four-day exercise learned what type of scenario they would encounter, assessment had already begun on the efficiency of tools for advertising the billets, and on the effectiveness of procedures for authorizing them.

The outcome? Progress has been made since 2010, but fine-tuning remains to be done before the next disaster strikes, including on the part of individual reservists and their commands to maintain personal and professional readiness.

The scenario justifying the “mobilization” of reservists was the hypothetical escalation of the Maritime Security level in the Port of Hampton Roads, Va., following intelligence reports suggesting an increased threat to commercial vessel traffic.

For most of the MOBEX participants, the exercise meant conducting operations associated with an increase in the Maritime Security (MARSEC) level: the establishment of an incident command post, port state control examinations and security boardings of high interest vessels.

Complicating the initial scenario—and approximating reality in a large, busy port like Hampton Roads—surprises brainstormed by Lt. Diana Guyton of Sector Hampton Roads were also introduced. These injects included a minor oil spill near a shore facility, reports of recreational vessels photographing military installations and a mysterious accident involving a truck crashing through the gate of a cargo terminal. Likewise, to test mobilization and demobilization procedures for reservists, administrative injects relating to injuries, travel card issues and civilian employment questions were added.

Drawing participants from every Coast Guard District except 14 and 17 to a centralized location and actually having members perform their roles—on boats and in full personal protective equipment, for instance—meant this MOBEX was the largest and most comprehensive exercise of its kind thus far.

“Other national mobilization exercises consisted of phone calls to each reservist asking them a series of questions regarding their ability to deploy: Is your Annual Screening



Questionnaire current? Are you in compliance with your Periodic Health Assessment?” explains Cmdr. Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux, Chief of the Reserve Force Readiness Branch for the 5th Coast Guard District and the lead planner of the MOBEX.

“However, those exercises didn’t ‘test’ the mobilization process,” Grzelak-Ledoux emphasizes, “And they didn’t evaluate the ability of Reservists to adequately perform in their assigned mobilization competency. How can you tell if a coxswain can really drive a boat over the phone?”

And qualifications matter, stresses Rear Adm. Steven Day, Acting Director of Reserve. “The MOBEX was related to Deepwater Horizon in that we wanted to ensure that reservists who went into the Mobilization Readiness Tracking Tool (MRTT) and rogered up for the MOBEX were vetted by their command and ready to fill the requested requirement entered in MRTT.” In addition, Grzelak-Ledoux notes that, “Command review and approval of Request for Forces generate via MRTT need to ensure members are qualified or certified to meet the requirements of the specific requests.”

The hectic operational tempo of the MOBEX, participants’ unfamiliarity with the area, and the integration of individual who had not trained together into boat crews and inspection



A team of Coast Guard Reservists assists a civilian contractor with the deployment of containment boom during a simulated oil spill in the Elizabeth River near Coast Guard Base Portsmouth March 19, 2012. The reservists were in Portsmouth for Reserve Mobilization Exercise 2012, a four-day scenario designed to assess the accuracy and adequacy of plans and procedures for reserve augmentation in case of a major incident.

Photo by Seaman Jourdin Pitts



Coast Guard Lt. Stephanie Pye shares her experiences and offers feedback with Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jared Angelle during the "hotwash" phase of the Reserve Mobilization Exercise 2012, March 22, 2012. The hotwash was an opportunity for the Coast Guard Reservists participating in the MOBEX to share the strengths and the challenges of the four-day exercise, which was designed to assess the accuracy and adequacy of plans and procedures for reserve augmentation in case of a major incident. Photo by PA1 John D. Miller

teams did approximate the conditions of a real mobilization. "I had some reservations going into it, namely that it's really hard to pull together people from different places who don't know each other and then send them out on a mission right away," said Capt. Mark Ogle, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads, who also served as the MOBEX incident commander. "But it went really well."

The exercise also provided opportunities to identify areas for improvement. For example, MOBEX planners realized that boat crew members from 7th District units might not have the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if mobilized for operations in chillier climates. "The whole exercise could have been shut down if the water was just a little colder," recounts Grzelak-Ledoux. "The new cold water PPE comes with tremendous requirements and it is an issue that should probably be addressed in contingency plans."

And, while MOBEX planners and senior staff maintain that the bulk of responsibility for readiness rests on the shoulders of the individual reservist and his or her command. Specifically, to improve surge staffing capabilities, units should ensure that all personnel competencies are current and properly entered into the Training Management Tool. Each command should also make certain they have an appropriate number of personnel with competencies in contingency planning and pollution response; as Federal On-

Scene Coordinator representatives; and adequate personnel capable of filling Incident Command System positions.

Reservists also play a major role for mobilization readiness emphasizes Day. "My command should not have to tell me about my personal readiness: my PHA (physical health assessment), my dental, my vaccinations. That's each of us individually."

Both Day and Grzelak-Ledoux point to the instruments the Coast Guard have in place to facilitate these tasks. "The Individual Training Plan is a great tool if people take the time with their supervisor to plan on how to meet your competencies, and to get from where you are now to where you want or need to be," explains Grzelak-Ledoux. "It is a way to ask yourself, 'what is the expectation [for me] and how do I meet it?'"

More opportunities lay ahead for reservists to evaluate their readiness and for Reserve force readiness personnel to assess mobilization plans and procedures. Another MOBEX is scheduled in PACAREA for 2013, and Day hopes the exercises will continue over a five-year span "in order to expand . . . and capitalize on the lessons learned" so far.

Lessons that hopefully won't have to be re-learned when, not if, the next real world incident and subsequent mobilization occur. ≈

Four days of exercise, one year of planning

Story and photo by PA1 John D. Miller, Fifth Coast Guard District

The beginning of the four-day Reserve Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) 2012 on March 12th also marked the end of over a year of planning.

Senior reserve leadership had previously discussed conducting a MOBEX to address some of the issues relating to the mobilization of the reserve during Deepwater Horizon, but the planning began in earnest in February 2011. The exercise was planned by Capt. Mark Eyler's 5th District Contingency Planning and Readiness Office, specifically by Cmdr. Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux and Tom Tarrants in the Contingency Planning Branch, around five objectives: to demonstrate the ability to obtain personnel, to test recall procedures, to identify logistics issues, to evaluate reservists' levels of proficiency and to execute the Reserve Contingency Force Rotation (RCFR) concept. The Deepwater Horizon incident highlighted gaps in the Coast Guard's staffing capabilities, including a lack of certified personnel to fill requirements and the absence of a plan to sustain necessary staffing. The last objective was a recommended corrective action to close those gaps.

"When Integrated Support Commands disbanded, meeting surge staffing needs became disjointed," explains Grzelak-Ledoux. "The Personnel Support Command's Surge Staffing Branch stood up to match resources to requirements -- finding personnel to fill critical positions or Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS) requests. However, the policies and processes surrounding mobilization to meet surge requirements were either in draft format, out-of-date or vague."

The RCFR is designed around the "bog and dwell" principle that stipulates deployed forces should spend five years training for every one year of deployment. Adapted from the Port Security Unit rotation scheduling model, the RCFR would provide Incident Commanders with a reliable, predictable and qualified incremental flow of reservists for a response. And, dividing reservists into a rotation of five readiness also builds predictability into mobilization and demobilization schedules, benefitting members, families, employers and commands.

A tabletop exercise in August 2011 helped refine and shape the MOBEX. So did early meetings with the units slated to host the event; Base Portsmouth and Sector Hampton Roads, as well as local small boat station officers-in-charge, whose boats were

used as part of the MOBEX. "Their collaborative attitude was a major asset," recalls Grzelak-Ledoux. "From loaning us equipment to setting up spaces, their willingness to work together for the common goal made the exercise a success."

Reaching out early also enabled the planning team to use resources that are not typical assets in exercises, including the Coast Guard Auxiliary. "We don't have a lot of visibility over them, but they provide tremendous support," explains Grzelak-Ledoux. They supplied boats and personnel for Reserve boat crews to board during the exercise and to deploy boom during a simulated oil spill response.

Planning and meeting early paid dividends for the success of the MOBEX, but certain obstacles proved intrinsically difficult to overcome, says Grzelak-Ledoux, adding that future MOBEX planners need to account for the challenges if they are not remedied beforehand.

"Some were due in part to the artificiality of this MOBEX. Since it was not mandated and not budgeted for, we had to ask for volunteers, which made it hard to evaluate completely the process. In real world events, we could mobilize the necessary amount of personnel with the right competencies and certifications to meet mission requirements."

The final advice Grzelak-Ledoux and LANTAREA-51 staff offer for MOBEX planners is to get a "warm start"; in other words, cultivate more awareness of the exercise scenario on the part of commands and participants. Sending more messages earlier to the former allows participants to be more knowledgeable of the situation once they arrive on scene.

Notwithstanding numerous challenges the exercise accomplished its objectives. In fact, most weren't even apparent to most participants, including Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jared Angelle, a reservist assigned to Sector New Orleans. "As a Master Exercise Practitioner, this is the best full-scale exercise that I have ever been a part of. I know it took countless man hours to plan and execute this MOBEX. For one, I greatly appreciate the hard work the 5th District and Sector Hampton Roads planning staffs did organizing this exercise and taking the opportunity to help improve the reserve mobilization and demobilization process." ≈



Sixty-eight Coast Guard reservists and auxiliaries from across the continental United States and Puerto Rico gather outside of the incident command post established at Base Portsmouth for Reserve Mobilization Exercise 2012

Managing Personnel Resources in Troubled Times

Story by Cmdr. Joe LeCato, Chief, Surge Staffing Branch

The Year 2010 brought troubled times to the country and the U.S. Coast Guard. Almost concurrent with re-modernization, the Coast Guard (CG) was called to respond to a major humanitarian challenge, the Haitian Earthquake in January of 2010 and a significant environmental disaster, the DEEPWATER HORIZON Spill of National Significance, a few months later. On its own either of these events would have proved difficult to manage, but taken together they challenged Coast Guard personnel system at a level rarely experienced since World War II. Further complicating the issue, these events happened as the CG continued its support of Overseas Contingency Operations IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN and ENDURING FREEDOM, resulting in a requirement to fill more than 9,425 mission-critical billets, or, put another way, to temporarily assign 25 percent of Coast Guard personnel to duties other than their permanent station.

The unit that accomplished this feat is hidden away in a small block of offices on Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California: a detachment of the Personnel Service Center (PSC) known as the Surge Staffing Branch (SSB). The SSB is responsible for re-leveling personnel assets throughout the entire Coast Guard, by detailing personnel on a temporary basis to fill mission-critical requirements on behalf of operational commanders and Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS) Service Centers. This vital work ensures mission accomplishment and success across all Coast Guard missions despite shrinking personnel assets and increased demand.

During contingency operations and reserve mobilizations, SSB provides critical support to the ATLANTIC and PACIFIC AREA Commanders in the conduct of reserve mobilization. Once a mobilization or response to a contingency is established, the SSB maintains its support to that operation providing Individual Augmentees (IAs) or the identification and detail of subject matter experts to operational commanders.

Since 2007 the Mobilization Readiness Tracking Tool (MRTT), a Coast Guard website that interfaces with the Coast Guard Enterprise Network, proved itself a vital tool in managing personnel readiness during steady state and contingency operations. Following its June 2008 debut in ATLANTIC AREA and several years of internal testing, MRTT was eventually adopted by the PSC as the primary tool for managing tactical personnel readiness. While not a replacement for Direct Access (DA), the Training Management Tool (TMT), or Coast Guard Business Intelligence (CGBI), MRTT synthesizes training, qualification and medical readiness information which is available in disparate areas of the Coast Guard Enterprise Network and makes the information readily available in a single application. In so doing, MRTT can advertise, track and report mission-critical requirements throughout the entire Coast Guard enabling PSC and Resource Unit Leaders working within Incident Management Teams (IMTs) greater flexibility in identifying and sourcing or re-leveling Coast Guard personnel assets.

In conjunction with the Coast Guard Messaging System (CGMS), the MRTT Volunteer Bulletin Board enables the entire Coast Guard workforce the ability to see, search and apply for any temporary assignment in support of Coast Guard missions world-wide.

MRTT replaces a myriad of antiquated methods and spreadsheets previously used to advertise, track, source and note the status and the availability of personnel in both emergent tactical and steady-state assignments and in large scale contingency operations.

One of the great challenges for any operational commander is to have a clear understanding of the status of required and available assets including personnel and equipment while also to be able to communicate that information up the chain of command and to the public. MRTT provides graphs and charts, both canned and ad-hoc data to the operational commander and any external interests regarding the status of personnel and progress of the incident. When used properly MRTT can greatly enhance the efficiency of any IMT or Incident Command Post (ICP).

The most frequent frustration expressed by IMT watchstanders regarding MRTT is a lack of familiarity with the program and little time to become familiar with running it during the chaotic beginnings of a contingency operation.

In response to this feedback, SSB is developing a team MRTT Go Team, using primarily Reserve personnel who are MRTT, Incident Command System (ICS) and contingency staffing process subject matter experts. Arriving just in time following an incident, this team is designed to assist the Operational Commander in the initial phases of a contingency response. Specifically, it will train unfamiliar watchstanders in the use of MRTT, to effectively manage inbound and outbound personnel, forecast personnel needs and communicate effectively through CGMS and MRTT. The Go Team is not operational in nature, but provides guidance to specific watchstanders on the use and benefits of MRTT within the ICS structure, specifically within Mobilization and Demobilization Units, the Resource Unit, and the Deputy Incident Commander. The MRTT Go Team already participated in a major mobilization exercise in March 2012 (see accompanying story in this issue) and much was learned from this first experience.

With hurricane season upon us, the MRTT Go Team is now standing by to respond. But all hands are needed to improve our efficiency in contingency response. Those responders slated to serve within Resource and Logistics Sections, should ensure that they are familiar with MRTT. Commanding officers should require that the personnel qualifications and competencies of both their active and reserve members and civilian personnel are entered, validated and current in TMT and DA. Rating Force Master Chiefs (RFMCs) should audit the rate as a whole and ensure that competencies are being entered. This will enable all users of MRTT to develop fully qualified candidate slates and make better selections from candidate pools. Operational commanders should make certain their requests for personnel assets or request for forces (RFFs) are measured, valid and expressed in terms of competencies vice background or experience.

Surge Staffing Branch will remain the honest brokers and provide the best qualified and reasonably available candidate(s) possible to the Operational Commander. The creation of the MRTT Go Team is a small step in the way forward to resolve the conflict between requirements management and requirements sourcing, and every person in

Are YOU Ready to be Mobilized??

Reserve Readiness and Mobilization Assessment Checklist

Things that should always be up to date or complete:

Date Completed	Task Item
	ID cards for self and for each family member
	Record of emergency data
	Designated SGLI beneficiaries
	Current family records (see recommended list of documents below)
	Medical and dental exams
	Annual Screening Questionnaire (ASQ)
	Official military record (at a minimum DD-214s, current orders, DEERs enrollment forms, record of emergency data, SGLI/Family SGLI)
	Legal documents (wills, living wills, marriage/divorce certificates, power of attorney, etc.)

Things to discuss/decisions to make in anticipation of mobilization or upon receipt of orders:

Date Completed	Task Item
	Do I/we need a power of attorney (limited or general)?
	Does the household budget need to be altered?
	Are legal guardians designated for dependents (if applicable)?
	Do I/we need to change health and dental care coverage (TRICARE, civilian employer plans)?
	How and with what frequency will the member, loved ones and friends stay in touch during mobilization (email, phone, weekly, monthly)?
	Do dependents/caretakers have Ombudsman or unit point of contact information in case member is not available?
	Will I/we need day care, pet care, lawn care, long-term parking or other services due to member being mobilized?
	Have I requested to vote by absentee ballot?

Shipmates in Focus





The Thinh Truong Story

From Refugee to
Reserve Officer Candidate:

Story by
BM3 Paul Dragin, USCGR

When you first encounter the 29-year-old Thinh Truong, you're immediately struck by his wide smile and gregarious nature. He has every reason to feel this way. Life is good for Truong. He is happily married to his beautiful bride, Dao, and they are the proud parents of two boys: Jake, 18 months, and Zac, 6 months. He also has successfully balanced dual careers: one as a nine-year Coast Guard Reserve non-commissioned officer machinery technician as well as his civilian vocation as an engineer for the Department of Defense at the Tank Automotive Research Development Engineering Center based in Warren, Michigan.

Truong is currently assigned to Port Security Unit (PSU) 309, based on Lake Erie in Port Clinton, Ohio. In the coming months, he will begin serving in a new capacity for the Coast Guard. "It has always been a personal goal of mine to follow in my father's footsteps and become a commissioned military officer," Truong said. His service in the Coast Guard has made this dream a reality. This summer he is scheduled to attend Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI).

But for Truong to arrive at this point in his life has been a remarkable journey: a journey that began decades ago with his father, Giao C. Truong in the country of his birth, Vietnam.

Life in Long-An, Vietnam. The Truong Family pictured (L-R): Khan, Kim-Giao, Lam-Van, Giao, Thinh, and Phat.

War and Survival

Giao Truong, like many of his contemporaries, planned on living a quiet life amid the sublime setting of Vietnam's stunning natural beauty. His plans for the future, however, were crushed when Giao and his family came face-to-face with communist oppression.

The Viet Cong, a communist guerrilla force, invaded his village, Hue, Vietnam, in 1963. Located in central Vietnam on the coast of the South China Sea, Hue is filled with hundreds of temples, pagodas, palaces and tombs. It currently enjoys the reputation of being one of the most popular tourist destinations in Vietnam.

One unforgettable night changed Giao forever when his village became a graveyard as hundreds of people were massacred in a few bloody hours. Giao and his immediate family managed to flee the carnage; numerous friends and extended family members were not so lucky.

Soon after, Giao became an anti-communist and took up the struggle in the only direct way he knew how: he enlisted in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam at the age of 25. The Vietnamese Republican Army and the United States fought to repel the spread of the North Vietnamese communist forces backed by both Russia and China.

Giao became a Marines Special Forces Operations Officer in 1965 and worked alongside U.S. forces. He led troops on reconnaissance missions throughout the country and engaged the enemy on multiple occasions over the course of nine years.

The end of the war precipitated an unimaginable fate for Giao and many of his fellow soldiers. After the capture of Saigon (later to be renamed Ho Chi Minh City), Giao was rounded up and sent to a forced labor camp. The official goal of his internment was "re-education". The Viet Cong wanted him to accept communist dogma and forsake any beliefs that were to the contrary.

For the next seven years, Giao was transferred across the country from labor camp to labor camp. His only nutrition came in the form of a daily bowl of rice or dried potatoes; at times reduced to eating whatever vegetables or insects he could find. He nearly died on multiple occasions due to malnutrition. Days were spent doing hard labor in the unrelenting heat of Vietnam. Many of his fellow soldiers who shared similar circumstances died as a result of this treatment.

The memory of his wife and children sustained him during those brutal years; he had faith that he would see them one day. He recalls being put in isolation several times for days on end after suffering through various mind games that his captors would impose on him. He never suffered their indignities without trying his own mind games to plant seeds of uncertainty in their tactics. "Stomping on your prisoner while he's tied up is just too low. How do you think your countrymen will embrace your ideals without earning their respect and intellectual assent?"

The Viet Cong would isolate him in a crude pit about six feet deep, wide enough for a person to stand in but not much bigger than that. His hands were tied behind his back with wire, and he would be left in this position, enduring the stifling humidity and heat of up to 100 degrees. To this day, scars ring his wrists from the wire used to bind his hands, a jarring reminder of the unrelenting torment inflicted by his own countrymen.

Despite these hardships, Giao refused to relent to his captors. While those around him capitulated as days became months and then years, Giao held firm in the conviction that he would one day be freed without having to sacrifice his beliefs. That day finally came in 1982 when his oppressors finally gave up on converting Giao Truong to communism.



Poverty and Struggle

Although technically a free man, Giao and his young family were still under the watchful eye of the local Communist Party officials. So, Giao decided to move his wife, Khan, and Children Kim-Giao, Lam-Van, and newborn twins Thinh and Phat. They settled in Long-An, a province of Ho Chi Minh City in Southern Vietnam. There Giao, with the help of a loan from his in-laws, rented some land and began cultivating rice, corn and peanuts. The entire family worked in the fields, all of the labor being done by hand.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Thinh's parents paid for him and his siblings to attend school in the mornings. Worldwide, more than 100 million children are not enrolled in primary school. The reason for this is the same reason that Thinh's parents could easily have succumbed to: children are needed to work to support the family and the family has no means to pay for schooling. Fortunately for the Truong children, their parents knew the value of education and were determined that their children would not struggle in the same fashion as themselves. This sometimes meant great sacrifices, including forgoing food to make sure school fees were paid.

Thinh vividly remembers walking several miles round-trip to get to school each day, passing through rice fields and farmland on his trek.

Upon his return from school, the fields were awaiting him to join his parents in the planting and harvesting of crops. To this day, Thinh is brought to tears when he thinks about what his entire family went through just to eat on a daily basis: "I will always remember the struggle that we endured, especially my parents, to ensure that we had something to eat."



Opportunity and Challenge

In the 1980's, Congress passed the Vietnamese Refugee Act, reducing restrictions on Vietnamese refugees trying to come to the America. A decade later, the United States saw Vietnamese immigration peak when individuals who were subjected to Vietnam's re-education camps were allowed to migrate along with their families. Giao and his family arrived in the United States on July 5, 1994 with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs.

During his early years of American schooling, Thinh endured difficult days trying to fit into a culture that was completely foreign to anything he previously knew. Growing up on a farm in rural Vietnam does not prepare a refugee for a modern, urban America. From the beginning, Thinh worked hard at learning English and by the time he reached high school, his grades were mostly A's and some B's. He also flourished as a tennis player for Everett High School in Lansing, Michigan. He graduated with a 3.7 GPA, and he received an engineering scholarship to Michigan State University.

Over the course of six short years, Thinh had gone from a Vietnamese refugee with no English fluency to an honor student on his way to Michigan State University. One year later, at the age of 19, Thinh became a naturalized U.S. citizen. During this same year, the United States experienced the deadliest terrorist attack in its history on September 11, 2001.

Like most Americans, Thinh was deeply saddened by the events that day and he felt a keen sense of indebtedness to his new homeland for all of the opportunities it provided him and his family. He also had a deep reservoir of inspiration from his father and the commitments he made as a soldier in Vietnam. "Being in the military has been an aspiration of mine because I wanted to serve my new country just as my dad served honorably during the Vietnam War. I want to be a positive role model for my sons when they grow up as well. I want them to be as proud of me as I am of my father."

This led Thinh to join the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in 2003. He was initially assigned to Station St. Clair Shores, Michigan and was transferred to PSU 309 in 2011.

While preparing for pre-mobilization training with the Navy in San Diego, Thinh learned that he was accepted into ROCI, where he will report for training this summer to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. "I feel incredibly blessed by this country and its people for the opportunities my family and I have had," Thinh said. "I hope to give back in some small way by serving my country through the U.S. Coast Guard."

The story of the Truong family is an amazing tale, yet it is, in many ways, a typical immigrant story. America has always been that beacon of hope for those who have been persecuted and marginalized in their homelands, only to come here and use their talents to make their lives and this nation stronger than ever. ☞

Previous Page: U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Officer Candidate Thinh Truong

Above: Thinh's father, Giao, as a captain for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, an ally of the United States in the fight against communism; circa 1968.

Right: Truong on the job during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.



A Tale of Two Coasties

Auxiliary University Program promotes leadership for a new generation of Reserve and Auxiliary Coast Guardsmen

Story by Andrew Welch,
Branch Chief, Auxiliary University Programs Division

College students Nick Zarembra and Will Singletary have much in common bond. Both are Coast Guard Auxiliarists, one is also a Coast Guard reservist. One recently graduated from one of the nation's oldest liberal arts colleges while the other enters his final year at a historic military college. Both have grown up in the Coast Guard on small boats, and both came to the service through Auxiliary University Programs (AUP). Both are pioneering leaders for the next generation of Coast Guardsmen.

A Tale of Two Coasties.

Nick graduated from AUP at The College of William and Mary on May 12, 2012, becoming the first AUP student ever to complete the full four-year program of study. Will, like Zaremba, came to college as a cadet at The Citadel without any plans to join the Coast Guard. Both students joined the program during their freshmen year, and both went on to serve as cadet leader of two of AUP's oldest (founded in 2008) and largest (approximately 15 students each) units. Singletary will graduate in 2013.

Each has made something different of his experience in uniform on campus, though. While both opted to pursue "small boat operations" as their AUP elective qualification, Singletary spent his 2011 summer "vacation" at Cape May.

"I began to gain a real passion for the Coast Guard and decided to enlist in the Reserve while still at college," reports Singletary. An opening came up for a boatswain mate billet at Station Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, and he signed up as quickly as possible. When the recruiter asked why he wanted to join the Coast Guard his answer was simple, "I wanted to serve my country, and I have a passion for what the Coast Guard does."

Using his recruit training experience to significantly grow AUP on campus, Singletary suddenly found himself in a significant leadership position amongst his fellow cadets at The Citadel. "After recruit training at Training Center Cape May, New Jersey, I became even more knowledgeable about the subjects that I would be teaching to my fellow Citadel cadets," he notes. "I found myself in a unique situation not faced by most non-rates in the Reserve; being responsible for teaching cadets in college about the Coast Guard. During my junior year I served as the unit's executive officer and operations officer. As a part of these leadership roles, I had to coordinate training with the active duty Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and The Citadel's schedule in order to make sure that the cadets were properly trained. On top of all of this, I was doing my drills as required each month with the Reserve and



Mr. Nick Zaremba (left) with fellow classmate Drew Domitrovits, walks across The College of William and Mary campus on their way to the Auxiliary University Programs (AUP) graduation. Zaremba made history when he became the first AUP student to join as a freshman and complete the full program of study over a four-year period.

coming in at least one afternoon per week in order to further my knowledge and get more training."

Zaremba's internship in the Office of Strategic Analysis (CG-095) at Coast Guard Headquarters, though focused differently than Singletary's, produced no less impressive results.

"My summer was nothing short of a major success filled with experiences that were vital to my professional development. I participated in the Evergreen Project Senior Grade Conference, where I analyzed specific operating environments of the Coast Guard 30 years into the future. We then developed service needs based on these environments. After the conference, I continued to work closely with the Evergreen Core Team to take the needs of all of the groups and condense them into a strategic document," recalls Zaremba.

Coast to Coast, AUP cadets, graduates, instructors, staff, and affiliated members are actively engaged supporting Coast Guard operational and administrative requirements by providing trained crews to enhance the safety and security of our nation's waters while promoting and improving recreational boating safety. AUP members also work at the cutting edge of Coast Guard innovation, research and development, and high level strategic needs that make the Auxiliary University Program one of the Coast Guard's key long-term strategic assets.

Throughout the summer Zaremba, "gained firsthand insight into how important strategy is written in the federal government. To receive course credit for my internship, I crafted a research paper on the Coast Guard's international efforts – specifically its role in West Africa." He adds that, "This research led me to an interview with a former International Ship and Port Facility Security officer as well as a trip to the Department of State."

Zaremba's experience highlights this long-term strategic value that AUP brings to the service. Not only did he contribute to a significant Headquarters effort over the course of four months, his pioneering of a new business approach has enabled other students studying relevant topics in their academic lives. To date, AUP students have worked alongside Coast Guard Headquarters offices of Maritime and International Law, Contingency Exercises, Vessel Activities, Living Marine Resources, Waterways Management, and Reserve and Leadership, as well as Aviation Training Center Mobile, various small boat stations, and others around the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. Following in his footsteps, subsequent interns now take their experiences back to their flotillas and college campuses, raising the profile of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, and Coast Guard Auxiliary in and amongst tens of thousands of students.

Education, Innovation, and Performance

AUP offers a two to four year program of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels that incorporates basic Coast Guard and maritime education, operational training, leadership development, and other maritime safety and homeland security topics. Students join the Auxiliary and affiliate with one of nearly ten flotilla sponsored campus units nationwide. Students without an AUP opportunity on campus are also welcome to complete their classroom requirements "virtually" while completing operations with their local flotilla. Students acquire operational and leadership experience through their real-world duties on the water and at the waterfront, and as emergency responders to incidents in their local area. Graduates have gone on to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Coast Guard Reserve, or the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School.



SN Will Singletary (far right) trains fellow Citadel cadets at Station Charleston. (Note: Students at The Citadel, a military college, wear the Army Combat Uniform as their school-wide uniform of the day; this is not a Coast Guard uniform.)

Students, graduate fellows, professors, and other maritime subject matter experts engage with the Coast Guard Innovation Program, directed research and development that matches students' academic interests with Coast Guard strategic need, and internships (often for academic course credit). The innovation team works not just with the Coast Guard, but with the Department of Homeland Security and other maritime community partners in order to cultivate a wide range of cross-service opportunities. AUP innovation projects have included elements of knowledge management, marine pollution modeling, geographic information systems, arctic pollution research, strategic development, public policy, maritime domain awareness, and port security.

In the coming year, AUP plans to work with students and alumni of business, information technology, education, public policy, and other related fields of study to assist the AUP, Auxiliary units, and other Coast Guard commands in achieving Coast Guard goals for mission execution, mission support, and force readiness. Participants serve in meaningful assignments working alongside active duty and civilian counterparts to advance the service's organizational goals. Drawing on the innovative work occurring throughout AUP and combining that work with tools such as the Commandant's Performance Excellence Criteria (CPEC) and Coast Guard Business Intelligence (CGBI), these auxiliarians take on emerging challenges, operationalize new processes and technology, develop curriculum, and deliver training.

Finally, Zaremba notes that the summer internship experience was "invaluable to my development as a professional as well as an auxiliary Coast Guardsman." Adding his hope, "that AUP cadets will continue to take advantage of what the internship program has to offer."

Singletary agrees, adding that "I am currently at Boatswain Mate 'A' school in Yorktown, Virginia. It is important for me to learn everything I can to excel in my rating, and at the same time be able to bring back what I learn to the Citadel detachment so I can assist and teach cadets on their journey in becoming Coast Guardsmen."

Fallen Reservist Inspires Lasting Legacy

Story by Lt. Sara B. McPherson,
Sector San Diego; Incident Management Division

Morning dawned on June 26, 2008 at Sector San Diego with great promise. Capt. Thomas Farris was preparing to begin his tour as the new U.S. Coast Guard Sector Commander. Cmdr. Dick Symons, Director of Coast Guard Auxiliary for the Eleventh District (sr), was among the various dignitaries attending the day's Change of Command ceremony. His son, Ens. Chris Symons, a reservist at the sector, was also on base early that Thursday morning but did not stay for the festivities. Instead, Symons – who had completed his first full night of enforcement boarding operations – headed to his parents' house in nearby Orange County to catch up on sleep.

Sadly, a day that began in celebration ended in tragedy. Just hours after Farris assumed command, Cmdr. Symons received a call from the California Highway Patrol – Chris had been killed in a car accident. “Dick and I were together when he got the call,” Farris remembers. “There are no words, really, to assuage that kind of shock and sadness.” According to authorities, Symons died at approximately 5:45 am after his car veered off the highway and crashed. They suspect the young officer fell asleep at the wheel.

The loss affected Farris deeply, and he was determined that Symons' death not be in vain. In the wake of the accident, Farris implemented sweeping changes to the management of Sector's Reserve Program. Historically, Sector reservists had managed their own program with minimal integration and interaction with active duty leadership. While this freedom and flexibility benefited individual members, Farris concluded that the system created a Reserve force that lacked engaged leadership, support and regular guidance from its active duty component. Farris believed that this lack of integration meant that no one person in leadership felt a responsibility

to understand Symons' drill schedule and therefore no one challenged the hard-charging young officer about driving home after working all night. “We have to know our people, know what we are asking them to do and know how much risk is attached to it,” he explains.

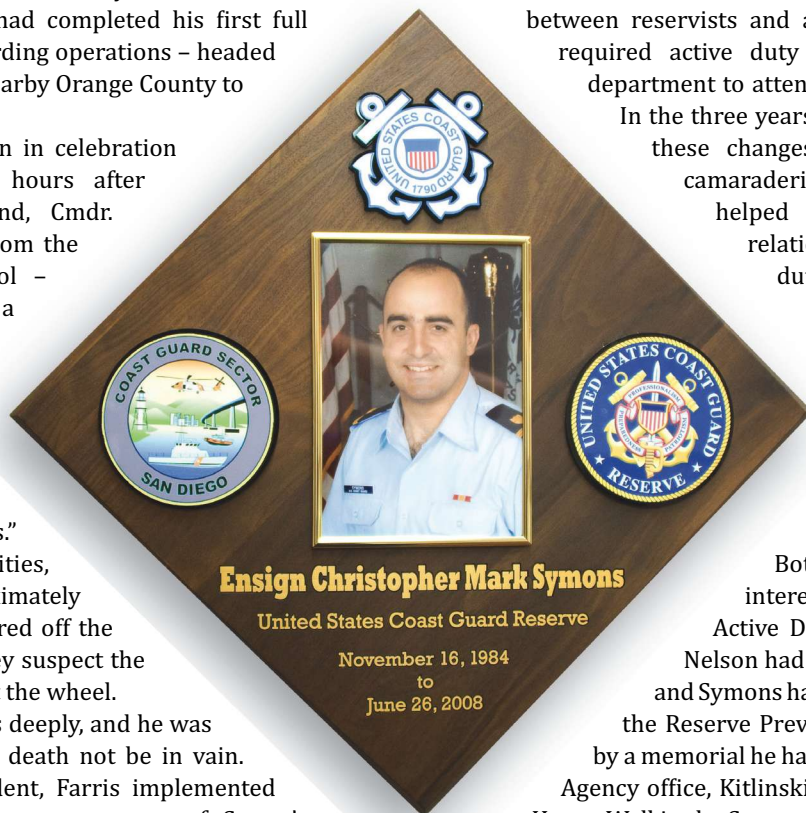
Farris decided that reservists would convert to a standard drill weekend with exceptions granted only by command endorsement. Farris also wanted to increase the interaction between reservists and active duty members, so he required active duty representatives from each department to attend the drill weekends as well.

In the three years since their implementation, these changes have markedly improved camaraderie among reservists and helped them develop stronger relationships with their active duty counterparts. Today Sector San Diego is held up as a model Reserve program in Eleventh District.

Farris also wanted to honor Ens. Symons directly. He assigned Lt. Josh Nelson and Lt. Darek Kitlinski to create a memorial on base.

Both officers had a personal interest in the assignment: as Active Duty Decedent Affairs Officer, Nelson had coordinated Symons' funeral and Symons had assumed Kitlinski's billet in the Reserve Prevention Department. Inspired by a memorial he had seen at a Drug Enforcement Agency office, Kitlinski proposed the creation of an Honor Wall in the Sector training room – a high-profile location used by active duty and reserve members as well as outside visitors. Originally conceived to honor Symons, the project quickly expanded to include 19 other service members who died while serving at Sector San Diego. “It seemed like a good opportunity to take care of all of our people,” Kitlinski explained.

On March 6, 2011, during the Reserve drill weekend, Rear Admiral John Welch officially dedicated the Sector San



Diego Honor Wall with the Symons family in attendance. Currently, a photograph of Ens. Symons and accompanying plaque center the memorial, flanked by two brass bells. The wall will eventually bear eight plaques commemorating the Sector's other fallen Coast Guardsmen, including renowned Coast Guard aviator Cmdr. Elmer Stone.

For those who knew Symons and worked on the project, it was an especially moving day. "Working on the Honor Wall after working on Chris' funeral was like bringing everything full circle," Nelson recalled.

For the Symons family, the Honor Wall was a fitting tribute to their son. "We were impressed and humbled and very happy with the final product," says Cmdr. Symons. More importantly, Symons takes comfort in knowing that his son has had a lasting impact on Sector San Diego. Several reservists approached him at the dedication to mention that his son's death had created a better, more inclusive Reserve program. "Chris was passionate about the Coast Guard," Symons explains, "and it was great to hear people who knew him say that he made the Reserve program better. That's his legacy."



Two HH-65 Dolphin helicopters from Air Station Los Angeles conduct a fly-over during a military memorial service for Ens. Christopher M. Symons, a Reservist attached to the Foreign Vessel Branch of Sector San Diego, held at Pacific View Memorial Park, Corona del Mar, Calif. June 30, 2008.

Photo by PA3 Jetta H. Disco

SAN DIEGO COAST GUARD HONOR WALL



Rear Adm. Welch, Senior Reserve Officer PACAREA stands with friends and family of Ens. Christopher Symons, in front of the Sector San Diego Honor Wall created in his honor. Symons was killed in car accident returning home after a drill weekend.

Photo courtesy Lt. J.G. Michael Haas.

Leadership Update

New Gold/Silver Badge Assignments

Assignment Year 2012 (AY12) saw a number of changes within the Reserve Gold and Silver Badge cadre. Reserve Command Master Chiefs work closely with their active duty counterparts and report directly to the Area or District commanders where they are assigned. In an effort to ensure that these critical billets were filled, a significant number of senior enlisted leaders voluntarily

accepted orders during AY12 to assignments well outside what is considered a normal distance from where they live.

Reserve Silver Badges also work closely with their active duty counterparts and are direct reports to their respective Sector commanders. They will be featured on a separate sector map in next month's issue of the *Reservist*.



Background on the incoming Command Master Chiefs

PACIFIC AREA

Master Chief George Williamson assumed duties as Reserve Command Master Chief, Pacific Area (PACAREA), in July 2012. His will advise PACAREA Commander Vice Admiral Paul F. Zukunft. Pacific Area includes the 11th, 13th, 14th and 17th Coast Guard Districts, and all of the Port Security Units. Most recently Master Chief Williamson served as Reserve Command Master Chief for 5th Coast Guard District, Portsmouth VA, from July 2007. "This assignment will be extremely challenging and I am grateful to the Coast Guard for affording me this amazing opportunity. The men and women of our Coast Guard continue to amaze me with their pure talent, dedication and love of the organization," states MCPO Williamson. "I am eager to meet the men and women in Pacific Area and listen to what makes them successful and share their success with the entire Coast Guard."

13TH DISTRICT

Master Chief Russell G. Lockey will assume the duties as Reserve Command Master Chief, 13th District on October 1, 2012. His will advise District Commander Rear Admiral Keith A. Taylor. Master Chief Lockey is currently serving on active duty operation support (ADOS) orders working with the 17th Coast Guard District Bridge Administration Branch conducting navigability determinations for waterways along the proposed Alaska Natural Gas pipeline route. Most recently, Master Chief Lockey served as Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor at Coast Guard Station Washington DC. "I am proud to have been selected to serve as the next Reserve Command Master Chief for the 13th District. Although I currently live and work in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, I spent time in the 13th District when I was on active duty, and thoroughly enjoyed it," notes MCPO Lockey. "While assigned to USCGC FIREBUSH (WLB-393) many years ago, the ship spent eight months being re-powered in Bellingham, Washington, which gave me the opportunity to spend some time in the Seattle area. I also made several trips to the shipyard in Coos Bay, Oregon, as a member of the 17th District Ready for Operations Inspection Team ensuring that buoy tenders completing yard periods were ready to transit home safely. For the past year and a half, I have been assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters, working on navigability determinations for a proposed gas pipeline in Alaska. Although this has been a fantastic assignment, I have been somewhat out of touch with drilling reservists while serving on ADOS. I look forward to spending more time in the Pacific Northwest while serving reservists and their families ensuring that their needs and concerns are presented to Rear Admiral Taylor."

11TH DISTRICT

Master Chief Nancy L. Seely assumed the duties of the Reserve Command Master Chief, 11th District on July 1, 2012. MCPO Seely will serve as an advisor to RADM Joseph R. Castillo, Commander of the 11th Coast Guard District. Prior to this assignment, Master Chief Seely was the Sector Reserve Command Master Chief for Sector Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. "In 1995, the USCG Reserve changed with the disestablishment of

Reserve Units and the assigning of reservists directly to active duty commands. I shared the uncertainty of many about 'Team Coast Guard' and even contemplated leaving," explains MCPO Seely. "But after attending the Reserve Chief Petty Officers Academy (CPOA), I gained a new perspective and sense of energy and purpose. Through conversations with my fellow chiefs, I saw a completely different side to the CG Reserve than I had experienced - one focused on leadership. I wanted to be a part of this larger opportunity. I was fortunate to be selected for the Sector Reserve Command Chief (Silver Badge) position at Sector Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The opportunity to apply for a District Reserve Command Master Chief provided yet another chance to have a greater impact on the Reserve program. So, after 25 years in the Great Lakes region, I am heading west; extremely excited about my new assignment and the opportunities it will bring. I will have the opportunity to form and shape, rather than just implement the policies that have an impact on the Reserve program and the individual reservist. As a recent graduate of the Reserve CPOA told me, the "they" that everyone talks about is now "we". I look forward to this latest challenge in a new and exciting location!"

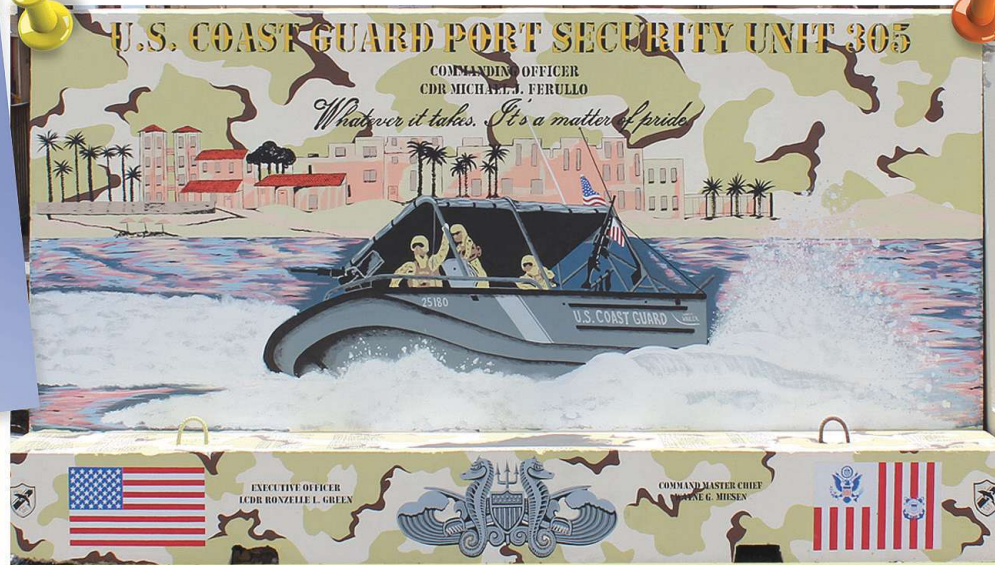
1ST DISTRICT

Master Chief Andreas Apenburg will assume the duties as the Reserve Command Master Chief for the 1st Coast Guard District on July 1, 2012. His primary responsibility will be to advise Rear Admiral Daniel Able, the Commander of the 1st District. He has been assigned as Sector Long Island Sounds Reserve Command Master Chief since October 2011. "I applied to become the 1st District Gold Badge Reserve Command Master Chief because I believe that through this position change can be effected; not only for the individual reservist but for the Reserve force throughout the District," states MCPO Apenburg. "I enjoy spending time with the crews at different units and talking about the pride and the challenges that comes with being a reservist. These conversations afford me the opportunity to engage with senior leadership and provide deck plate ground truth as decisions are made regarding policy development and implementation."

5TH DISTRICT

Master Chief William J. Princiotta assumed duties as Command Master Chief, 5th District on July 1, 2012. He will advise 5th District Commander Rear Admiral Steven H. Ratti. Most recently, Master Chief Princiotta served as Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor for USCG Station Atlantic City. "Being a Gold Badge allows me the greatest opportunity to inspire other members of the tight knit family. My role as a leader is to make sure everyone in the Coast Guard is aware of the numerous benefits and opportunities available to them as well as offering encouragement and support by letting them know that they are having a meaningful impact and are contributing to the good of maritime environment," notes MCPO Princiotta. "As Gold Badge Command Master Chief, one of my goals is to enhance communication and foster a better understanding of the needs and viewpoints of all members of the Coast Guard family. I am looking forward to a challenging tour as the 5th District Reserve Command Master Chief."

Bulletin Board



At Camp Patriot on the Kuwait Naval Base (KNB), Kuwait, there are hundreds of cement barricades placed throughout the camp. There's a tradition whereby units deployed to KNB will paint one of the barricades as a remembrance of their deployment. Port Security Unit 305 from Ft. Eustis, VA deployed to KNB in late 2011 for six months. Shown here is the handy work of unit members BM1 David Bangit, YN1 Robert White and BM2 Rachel Cochrane representing PSU 305's time in-theater.

Submitted Lt. Brandi Corvigno, PSU 305

New Coast Guard Employee Assistance Program...now CGSUPRT is AVAILABLE for SELRES and their Families!

On May 1, 2012 ALCOAST 201-12 announced the launch of the Coast Guard's new Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is now known as the Coast Guard Support (CGSUPRT) Program.

The CGSUPRT Program services are available to:

- Active duty members, members of the Selected Reserve (SELRES), and respective family members enrolled in DEERS
- Civilian employees within their immediate household
- Dependent family members of deceased CG employees for up to 6 months after the members death

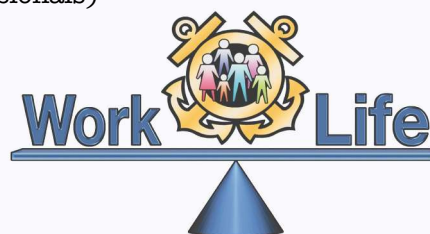
CGSUPRT offers the following services:

- Non-medical counseling via phone and face-to-face for individuals with a wide variety of psychological/life challenges (up to 12 sessions)
- Assistance, consultation, and referral via phone for a broad range of life events that individuals may need assistance with such as childcare, eldercare, college funding, and moving
- Consultation via phone for supervisors and commands regarding issues that may be impacting their employees/unit
- Health coaching and information via phone for a broad range of health issues such as smoking, weight management, and stress reduction (up to 12 sessions)
- Education and self-assessment tools on a broad range of behavioral, psychological, and life event topics
- Assistance with critical incident responses
- Prevention and awareness activities
- Financial and legal assistance (30 minutes with qualified professionals)
- Tax preparation assistance

Contact Information

To access CGSUPRT call toll free:

- 855-CGSUPRT (855-247-8778)
- or 855-444-8724
- Website: www.CGSUPRT.com





On April 27, the Coast Guard presented the School Board of Broward County (SBBC) the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award for exemplary support of reservist Lt. Ed See. The event was sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense National Committee for the ESGR in conjunction with the Humana Military Fleet Week 2012, Port Everglades, FL. Pictured from left to right are Capt. Richard Kenin (D7 Chief of Staff), Charles Webster (SBBC Government Affairs), Aston Henry (SBBC Risk Management), Mr. Charles Flowers (Tuskegee Airman), and Lt. See.

U.S. Military Families Tutoring Program

The "Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program" provides eligible students access to free online tutoring and free homework help from live, expert tutors in more than 16 subjects, whenever you need help. You work one-to-one with your tutor in an online classroom on your specific homework problem until it's done.

The Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program is funded by the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. This program is available at no cost to Coast Guard Reserve members and their dependents, as verified by DEERS. (Reserve members become ineligible during periods when on active duty).

Online tutors are available 24/7 and you do not need to make appointments. Every session is archived, so you can review or replay them later. Everything is online, so you can access the program from any internet-enabled computer worldwide. You can receive help in:

- SAT and test prep
- Writing papers
- Homework questions
- Reviewing work

All tutors are real people who are expert in the subjects they tutor. They tutor every skill level from elementary to advanced, and they can also help eligible military adult students with introductory college courses, adult learning, and career transitions.

To register for Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families Reserve members and eligible dependants can go to the web site at www.tutor.com and click on the "Tutor.com for the Military" icon. When the page opens click on the "for Navy" icon and certify you are eligible. (Currently there is not a Coast Guard specific icon but Coast Guard members can register using the Navy link).

For more information visit the Coast Guard Yellow Ribbon web page at: www.uscg.mil/reserves or contact the Coast Guard Yellow Ribbon at: yellowribbon@uscg.mil.



TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS:

Selected Reservists:

Please use Direct Access
www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/,
 or send your address change to
 your unit Servicing Personnel
 Office (SPO).

Individual Ready Reservists (IRR):

Please contact the IRR
 Personnel Support Unit via
 email at:
ARL-DG-CGPSCIRR@uscg.mil
 or at:

Commander (rpm-3)
 Personnel Service Center
 Us Coast Guard Stop 7200
 4200 Wilson Blvd
 Ste 1100
 Arlington, Va 20598-7200

Retired Reservists:

Please send e-mail to Personnel
 Service Center (ras) at:
ppc-dg-ras@uscg.mil
 or use Direct Access
www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/,
 or use self-service at
www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/directoryassistance.asp#one
 or call 1-800-772-8724.



Improving Financial Stewardship: The Importance of Obtaining and Properly Using Your Government Travel Charge Card

By CWO Carlene Curry, USCGR

Last issue's article on Improving Financial Stewardship: The Importance of Obtaining and Properly Using Your Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) was a great opener to help us get the word out about travel card eligibility and card use. The GTCC Program would like to clarify a few statements as well as elaborate on the previous article.

To begin, we need to correct comments made in this earlier article. Coast Guard (CG) policy issued under a message is in force for only 12 months. In this case, ALCOAST 717/09 is no longer in effect and this message was later replaced by ALCGPSC 036/11 which has since been incorporated into the revised GTCC policy (CIM 4600.18, promulgated on 27Jan12). ALCOAST

717/09 was issued due to known gaps in the GTCC Program's internal controls and to promote good financial stewardship by mandating the use of the Individually Billed Accounts (IBA) in lieu of the Centrally Billed Account (CBA). While these controls have been improved, they are still a work in progress and the

GTCC Program continues to design and implement new controls to ensure the CBA use is in accordance with current policy.

As a reminder, the CBA is to be used by travelers for the purchase of commercial transportation tickets under the following circumstances when under official travel orders:

- Travelers who do not have or are not eligible for a GTCC
- Invitational travelers
- Dependents
- Former GTCC holders whose accounts have been cancelled
- Travelers who are IBA cardholders only in the following situations:
 - Overseas travel that includes the following criteria:
 - Advance ticket purchase is required, or
 - Ticket costs exceed \$3000
 - PCS travel where PCS delay exceeds 15 days
 - TDY travel where travel time exceeds 21 days.

The CBA cannot be used to charge IDT travel, travel on permissive orders, excess baggage, car rentals, or lodging. Additionally, using the CBA is prohibited if you hold a GTCC and are not otherwise exempt or if you want to include leisure travel with your official travel. Travel orders must clearly indicate that use of the CBA is authorized. Your approving official is responsible to ensure this authorization is clearly indicated on the travel orders and is in accordance with travel policy.

The CFO audit findings mentioned in the earlier article were in regards to the direct expenditures associated with travel and not specifically due to over use of the CBA. Direct expenditures occur when travel settlements are processed against a travel order that either was obligated for a lower amount or was never obligated within the financial system. As outlined in ALCOAST 045/12 and its references, the CG must be more vigilant in its fiscal responsibilities.

Do you already hold an IBA GTCC to help with your IDT, ADT or mobilization travel? If you don't, then you need to. CIM 4600.18 makes it clear that all reservists shall apply for and maintain a GTCC account in good standing to facilitate mobilization requirements. If you don't have a GTCC, check with your chain of command or the GTCC website on how to obtain one. You will find this card to be a valuable tool when you are recalled at a moment's notice and need the card to secure contracted city pair fares and/or car rentals through the current Travel Management Center (TMC) contractor, SATO. Remember, using SATO is mandatory for official commercial travel and car rental. For IDT travel however, using the TMC is not mandatory, but if you get IDT orders at the last minute or your travel plans need to change, you may find that using the TMC can be cheaper and tickets are fully refundable. One more thing to keep in mind too, IDT travel is not reimbursable and the



Awards

travel card can only be used for IDT travel when your drill site is more than 100 miles away and you are on the commanding officer's authorized list.

Many reservists are also civilian DHS employees. As such, you may be required by your employer to hold a travel card within that agency. This can cause a conflict when applying for a GTCC for both agencies, since all of DHS uses the same bank, JPMorganChase (JPMC). When applying for a GTCC, be sure to indicate on your application that you are a CG reservist. JPMC will permit you to hold two GTCCs when you are both a full time and part time employee of two DHS components. Then you just need to remember to use the right GTCC for the right component.

If it has been a while since you took your GTCC training, here are a few reminders:

- Use your GTCC for authorized, reimbursable expenses only;
- Use your GTCC whenever possible, limiting ATM cash advances for cash only items such as tips and cash only merchants;
- Pay your statement on time and in full, regardless of travel claim reimbursement;
- Do not use your GTCC for IDT expenses other than commercial travel procured through the TMC (if drill site is more than 100 miles away and you are on the commanding officer's authorization list);
- Do not use your GTCC while not on official CG travel orders;
- Do not use your GTCC for charges other than your own. Do not make reservations or charges for others on your card; and
- Complete your travel claims within 3 days of completing travel.

Just because you are a reservist, out of sight doesn't mean out of mind. If you are found misusing your GTCC or are delinquent in paying your statements, you may be subject to disciplinary measures in accordance with the CIM 4600.18 and the UCMJ. If you inappropriately use your card while not on duty, your command may address your misconduct while you are on duty by issuing a negative administrative remark through a CG-3307, closing your GTCC account, documenting in your EER/OER, etc.

If you have any questions on how to apply for a GTCC, how to access your account online, contacting your local travel manager or for more travel information, check out the GTCC website at www.uscg.mil/psc/bops/govtrvl.

In closing, obtain and maintain a GTCC, use it for all official travel when required and ensure your travel orders are properly noted if you are entitled to use the CBA. If you have any questions about your travel card or use of the CBA, don't hesitate to contact your local travel manager or the GTCC Program Manager, Mr. Matthew Ruckert at Matthew.T.Ruckert@uscg.mil.



BRONZE STAR

LT Jonathan Schafner



COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL

MKC Dominick Celli
ME1 Michael C. Pevear



COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LCDR John Settle
LCDR (Sel) Bob Lindsay
YN1 Toni Powell
ME1 Charles Yeargin



ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LT Jonathan Schafner



COAST GUARD RESERVE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

MECS Matthew McClintock
MST1 Jonathan Thackston



Marine Science Technician David Schacher, a reservist currently serving on Title 10 with Container Inspection Training and Assistance Team (CITAT) in Oklahoma City, OK, was advanced to Senior Chief on May 1. Pictured from left to right are MSTCS Don Clayton, MSTCS Schacher, MSSD3 Bruce Jones and CITAT Supervisor LCDR Douglas Lincoln.

ADVANCEMENTS:

MKC Adam Crouse
BM1 Steven Harvey
ME1 Matthew Hailey
ME1 Ian Robertson
OS2 Jonathan Rojas
OS2 Chris Mahoney-Manasco

MK2 Jonathon Dixon
MK2 Vanessa Stone
BM2 Matthew Stanberry
BM3 Anthony Vu
ME3 Denim Kurtis
ME3 Mario San Paolo

Honoring the Fallen

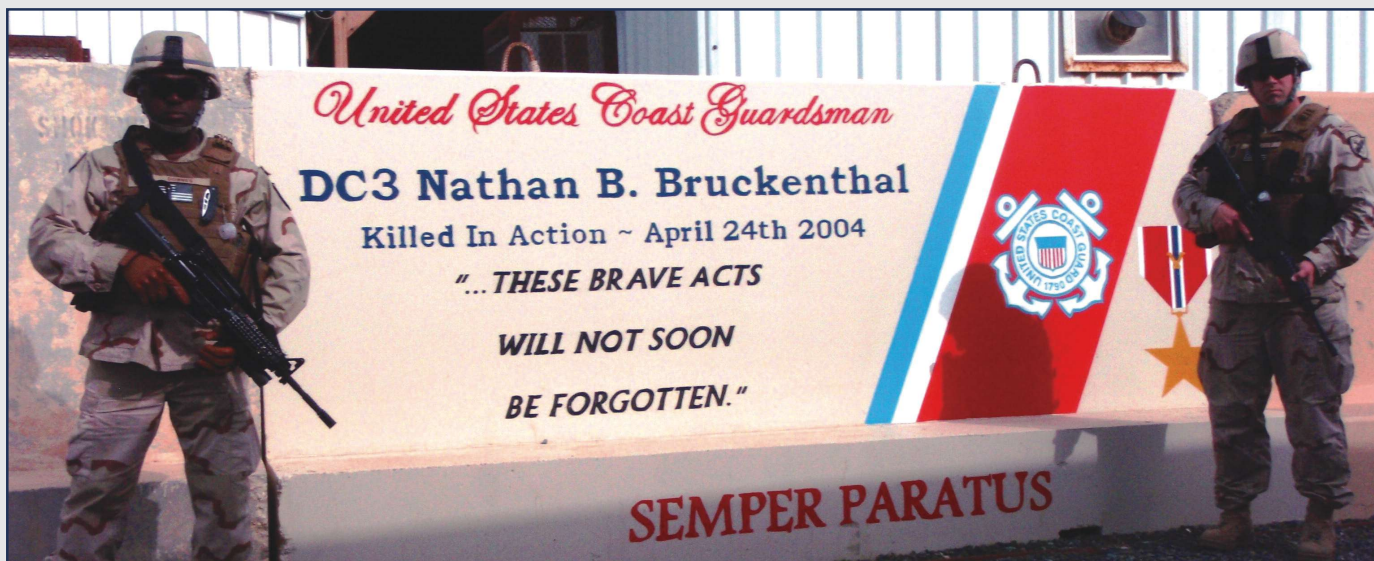
PS3 RONALD A. GILL JR.,

Rear Adm. Keith Taylor, Commander, 13th Coast Guard District, joined members of the Coast Guard who conducted a memorial service Sunday, March 12, 2012 in Puget Sound just north of Vashon Island, WA marking the fifth anniversary of the tragic loss of Port Security Specialist (PS) Third Class Ronald A. Gill, Jr. Gill, a Coast Guard reservist serving on active duty at the time, who suffered fatal injuries after being ejected from a Coast Guard boat during a security patrol on March 25, 2007.

Two of Gill's friends also attended the ceremony, which was conducted from the deck of a Coast Guard 45 Response Boat Medium. The ceremony included a speech by one of the vessel's crewmembers honoring PS3 Gill and a wreath laying in close proximity to where the accident occurred.



Josh Burlingame, a friend of PS3 Ronald A. Gill Jr., lays a wreath as part of a ceremony in Gill's honor that was held off the northern coast of Vashon Island, WA, on Mar. 12, 2012. The ceremony was conducted at the approximate location that Gill was fatally injured five-years-ago. Photo by PA3 Nathan W. Bradshaw.



DC1 Harold Downes and EM1 Ryan Groesser at the DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal memorial at Camp Patriot, Kuwait Naval Base.

DC3 NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL

The day was Saturday, April 24, 2004 and Coast Guard Damage Controlman Third Class (DC3) Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, was killed in a terrorist waterborne attack while bravely serving his country in the Northern Persian Gulf. Petty Officer Bruckenthal was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his actions.

Eight years later DC3 Bruckenthal serves as a constant inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps. Two such shipmates are DC1 Harold J. Downes and EM1 Ryan J. Groesser. They are assigned to the Engineering Department of Port

Security Unit 305, recently deployed in support of Operation New Dawn at Camp Patriot, Kuwait Naval Base in the Northern Persian Gulf. Both Downes and Groesser routinely take time to stop by and pay tribute to their fallen shipmate as they carry out their mission. "He's here with us, in our hearts, every day," says Downes. Back in 2000, as an instructor at Training Center Yorktown, Downes taught DC3 Bruckenthal the Fire Fighting and Welding courses. "As a good shipmate, he reminds us to be vigilant and carry out our mission with determination and pride," added EM1 Groesser.



MEC Christopher Michael Pupo, 40, died peacefully on June 23, 2012 after a brave and prolonged battle with cancer that he developed as a result of his rescue efforts at Ground Zero following 9/11. Christopher was born on February 12, 1972 in New Rochelle, NY to Nancy Gullusci and Alfred Pupo, Jr. He attended New Rochelle High School and Iona College, where he excelled on the football field and developed deep friendships with countless people he encountered.

In 1998, Christopher answered his true calling and entered the New York City Police Department. Throughout his years serving the City of New York Christopher's passion for his job was evident and it was no surprise to anyone he worked with that he excelled and advanced through the ranks. He spent time on the street working in the 52nd Precinct, served as a Sergeant in the Emergency Services Unit and a Lieutenant of the 41st Precinct. He was recently promoted to the rank of Detective Lieutenant.

In 2003, Christopher fulfilled another life goal when he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, wherein he served with great honor for over nine years. In 2009, he was chosen as the Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year and was meritoriously advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He served his country proudly both domestically and overseas.

He is lovingly remembered by his children, Mackenzie, Kacey and Devyn, and his wife, Kristen, of Tappan, NY. He is also treasured by his loving father Alfred and his stepmother Helene Pupo, of Pocono Lake, PA; his best friend Richard Tricario; his cousin Jennifer Pupo, his brother-in-law Todd and Karen Damiani.



MCPO Jane E. Akers, 51, USCGR, Retired. She was born in Akron, Ohio to parents, John and Naomi Hutko, attended Akron public schools and The University of Akron, graduating with a BA in History. She enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1978 and served four years active duty in search and rescue on the Great Lakes.

Continuing on as a reservist, she trained with the newly formed Port Security Unit concept from 1978 to 1990. She was deployed to the Middle East for Operation Desert Shield/Storm as a boat crewman, gunner and engineer. She was deployed again for Operation Southern Watch/Vigilant Sentry, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Neptune Shield. After 9/11, she was re-called for active duty to the Coast Guard for the newly formed Department of Homeland Security where she served at the Ninth District Command Center, Cleveland, Ohio, and attained the rank of master chief. After retiring, she accepted a position as Port Security Specialist for Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Sector, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Between deployments; she was employed at RPS Hygienic Corporation, United States Census Bureau and H&R Block. She was preceded in death by mother, Naomi. She is survived by her father, John; brother, John Russell; husband, Dennis; and several beloved cats.



Cmdr. James I. Piner, USCGR, retired, passed away on March 3, 2012 at his home in Beaufort, NC after a courageous battle with cancer. Cmdr Piner served on active duty from September 1948 to September 4, 1951. Jim joined the Coast Guard Reserve on September 5 of that year and served thirty-seven and a half years for a total career spanning four decades. Cmdr Piner served in numerous capacities with Coast Guard Reserve Unit Fort Macon, including that of Commanding Officer. His civilian career included positions as; manager of the Morehead City Pilots Association, Corporate Secretary of Carteret Towing Company, Assistant Administrator of Sea Level Hospital, and Assistant Director of the North Carolina Ferry Division. Jim is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Dorothy (Dot) Liner and a son, James I. Piner, Jr.



Cmdr. James Piner and Dot, his wife of 53 years.

Parting Shots



A Pacific Strike Team member is washed by Maino Mose, a fireman with the American Samoa Fire Department after he works with anhydrous ammonia cylinders at an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleanup work site near the Pago Pago International Airport, June 12. The PST was requested by the EPA because of their hazardous materials response capability.

Photo by
PA1 Matthew Schofield



Coast Guard Seamen Ryan Gordon, left, Elliott Gray, Jon Waldrop and Azaret Rivera present colors during the opening ceremony for the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 in Madison, Conn., July 8, 2012. The Coast Guard Honor Guard wore period uniforms to mark the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Photo by PA2 Jetta H. Disco



A U.S. Coast Guard MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter, from Air Station Cape Cod, Mass., performs a search and rescue demonstration before crowds gathered along Boston's Inner Harbor, July 1. The aircrew showcased their capabilities to recover a potential victim from the water as part of the OpSail 2012 and Boston Harborfest celebrations, commemorating the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Photo by PA3 Amber Mitchell

Coast Guard and response contractors work to remove fuel from aboard the grounded 202-foot freighter *Jireh* on Mona Island, Puerto Rico, June 30. More than 1,700 gallons of oil/water mixture have been removed since the start of operations.

Photo by
PAC Paul Roszkowski

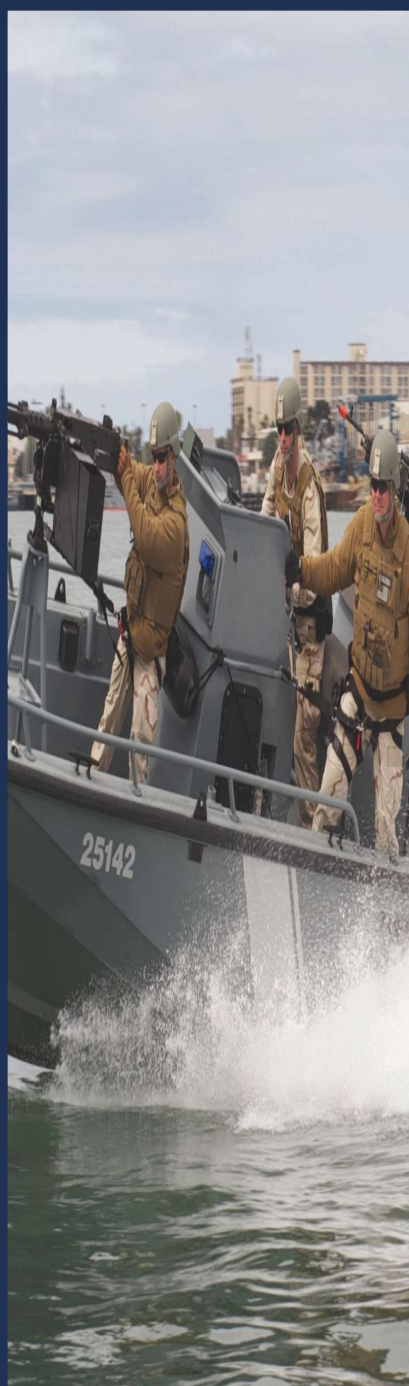


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